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**Images on request**

*Heather Stivison: Borders and Boundaries*

Artist Heather Stivison's solo exhibition at New York's Pleiades Gallery

June 11-July 6, 2024

Heather Stivison, an artist previously known for works that explore the intersection of environmental science and visual art in her immersive paintings of the ocean, air, and sky will now debut artworks on the timely theme of borders. ***Heather Stivison: Borders and Boundaries opens on June 11 at Pleiades Gallery, 547 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 304.*** The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12-6 p.m.

The fourteen works in the exhibition are a tapestry of drawings, found objects, textiles, and paintings that speak of both physical borders and emotional boundaries and barriers. Created in subdued palettes dominated by greys the works reference both historical immigration and contemporary immigration issues as seen through the eyes of a mother.

Stivison states that one 48" x 97" oil painting was her motivation for the entire series. One side of the canvas is filled by intent faces that are partially obscured by bars and barriers. Ominous suggestions of drones fly overhead, while the central figure, an infant girl sitting on razor wire reaches up as if to catch a drone in her hand. In it, Stivison asks, "What kind of world are we leaving to our children?"

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The personal authenticity of her question ripples through all the works. She prods and pokes at her own comfortable life and that of her peers. A suburban real estate survey serves as background to a drawing of the artist's own white picket fence, that on close inspection reveals tiny red letters stating "not my problem."

Themes of losing one's home, of remembering a home, of yearnings for homes overlay her narratives of migration. "After all," she states, "isn't that what migration is about? The heartbreak of leaving a the familiar home that is no longer safe for our children, the hard work and hope for their futures, and the often unattainable dream of the security of a place to call our own..."

Art critic Don Wilkinson said of Stivison, writing in *The New Bedford Standard-Times*, "Much of her imagery, although clearly rooted in reality, flirts with the abstract. It is that nexus between the two poles where she is most comfortable as an artist. In the space of visual disruption, she opens herself up to the possibility of different narratives than simple observation might deliver."

Stivison has exhibited throughout the United States and in both national and international juried and invitational exhibitions. This is her second New York solo exhibition. For more information about the artist and her work, visit <https://www.heatherstivisonart.com/>.

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#### About Pleiades Gallery

Spanning fifty years, Pleiades Gallery is one of the oldest and most well-established galleries in New York City. Founded in Soho in 1974 by a group of like-minded artists, the gallery moved to the heart of Chelsea in 2000, located among the most prestigious galleries in Manhattan. Pleiades Gallery has developed into a Chelsea institution with high standards that are continuously refreshed by new artists representing a diversity of styles, ages and viewpoints and that are creating work across a broad range of mediums.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 12-6 p.m.