

TRAVERSÉES

Group show

· Alison Grace Koehler · Leslie McAllister ·
· Laurent M'Bina · Jason Stoneking ·



Work by Laurent M'Bina, *Vision du Pont des arts*, February 2022, etching and ink on leather, 8 x 12 inches

From May 5 to 28, 2022

**Opening Thursday, May 5
6 - 9 pm.**

Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre

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Tuesday-Saturday: 10:30-12:30 am / 2:30-6:30 pm.

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Performances cycle

Alison Grace Koehler Thursday May 12 at 6:30 pm.

Leslie McAllister Thursday May 19 at 6:30 pm.

Jason Stoneking Wednesday May 25 at 6:30 pm.

Laurent M'Bina works in leather. His small engraved pieces each tell a story. Water is very present, as are bridges, boats and birds. It is a landscape of his everyday life with forms that speak to everyone. Laurent M'Bina says he thinks a lot about music when he works.

I would like to thank Alison Grace Koehler, Leslie McAllister and Jason Stoneking for accepting my invitation to combine their work with that of Laurent M'Bina in a group exhibition. Each in their own way aims for simplicity in their work, but through their own means: Alison Grace Koehler through the elusiveness of the light in her stained glass, Leslie McAllister through the fluidity of presence in her paintings, and Jason Stoneking through the sense of truth that spills over the words in his portraits.

Arnaud Lefebvre

Alison Grace Koehler

Stained glass and poetry, for me, have a reciprocal relationship that is also a very personal one. I tend to construct a poem in fragments that build into and break upon each other. This process is similar to the one I use to make a window, often starting with the colored shards that I gather, and soldering them into a half-formed vision that completes itself in the process of creation. This isn't a traditional way of making a window, and to me it sometimes feels more like painting, painting a poem out of the moment and color and light.

Stained glass sits on a luminous threshold of dream/reality. Its poetry lies outside of what it can express in story, and more inside the ineffable worlds it can, and always has evoked.

Stained glass poetry is made inside this lit, liminal space in which I don't know exactly where I am or where I will land. There are always constraints that I've been handed, or that I have chosen. These allow me to begin. Encountering, digging into an undefined space may take me and what I make beyond where I was, what it could be, and what depths it might give. This is where art or existence stretches and begins.

In this exhibition I will be showing a selection of stained glass windows in found frames, as well as small glass suspensions, hanging from wire.

Alison Grace Koehler

Born in Chicago, **Alison Grace Koehler** is a stained glass poet. Bright, fragmented windows inspire her writing, and much of her glass art explores a personal relationships with words. She aims to cultivate creation that emerges through happenstance and broken shards. Having received a Diplôme des Métiers d'Art from ENSAAMA, she has performed at various festivals, shows, and events, including Espace Canopy, The Edinburgh Art Festival, Irruzioni Festival, The Bloomsday Festival, Espace Christiane Peugeot, and The Poetry Brothel. She makes stained glass for exhibitions and transient installations, as well as permanent pieces for public and private spaces. She lives in Paris and has recently published her first book, *Stained Glass Poetry*.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2022 *De Verre en Vers*, Solo Exhibition, Espace Canopy, Paris
2020 *COVID-19*, Group Show, Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre, Paris
2019 *Rendez Vous à Paris*, WorldPaint Gallery, Paris
Le manège, Centre Equestre aux Sources d'Apolline, Steinbrunn-le-Bas
Progressions, Espace Christiane Peugeot, Paris
2018 *Livres/Artistes/Objets*, Atelier d'A Espace Hubert Lefrançois, Gravigny

Public interventions

- 2021 Performance avec L'assaut des Poètes, Marché de la Poésie,
2020 *Forms in Flux*, Slant Literary Events, Événement en ligne
Private Screening of "And today is the beginning", Hotel La Louisiane, Paris,
2019 *Ivy Writers Reading*, Delaville Cafe, Paris
Bloomsday Festival, Dublin, Ireland
2018 *Hands of Grace*, Miroir de Nature, Eglise St.Jospeh, Montgeron
Meeting Point Project, Les Nocturnes de l'Aude, Paris
2017 *Piety/Vandalism*, St.Margaret's House, Edinburgh Art Festival

Publications

- 2021 Verse of April, Hymn for the Living Poet, Hommage to Etel Adnan
2020 *Tamaas*, Issue 8 ; *Quarantine Space Eyesore Magazine* ; *Stained Glass Poetry*, édité par Paris Heretics ; *ONTHEBUS 24*
2019 *Alcôves*, Le Bordel de la Poésie
2019, 2020 *Yes the Void*
2017, 2018 *Revue Objet No.1, No.4*
2015, 2017, 2018 *Paris Lit Up No.3, No. 5, No.6*

Bibliography

- 2021 Urban Glass, CONVERSATION: Paris-based Alison Grace Koehler searches for new ways of fusing poetry and stained glass

Website: <http://alisonkoehler.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlisonGraceKoehler/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alisongracekoehler/>

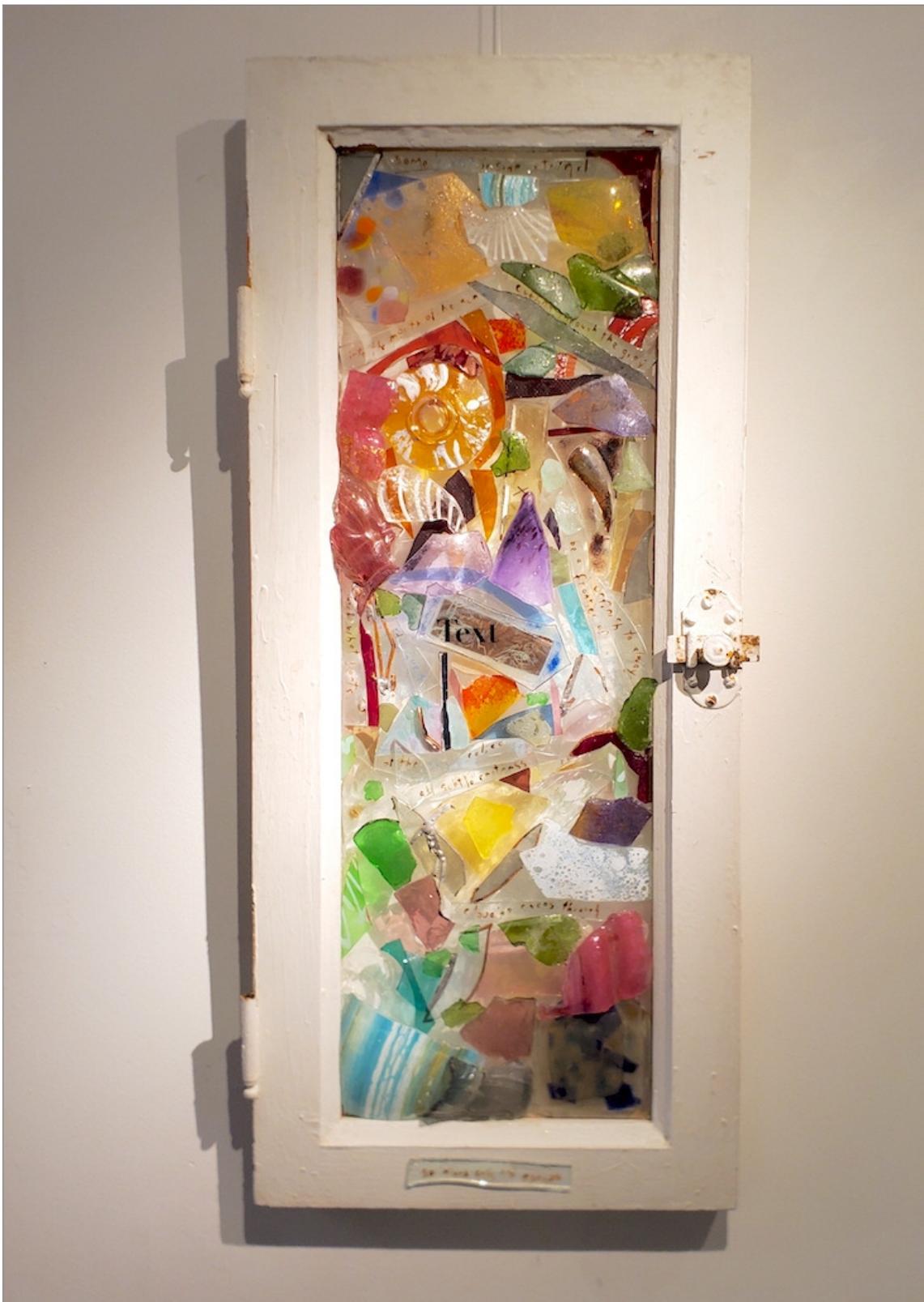
/// Available Images

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Photo © Alison Grace Koehler, courtesy Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre)



Alison Grace Koehler
The Confessional, 2022, Paris
Stained glass, 28.3 x 13.4 x 3.3 in.



Alison Grace Koehler
So Much Calm and Escape, 2019, Paris
Stained glass, 32.5 x 14 x 3 in.



Alison Grace Koehler
Spring Confinement, 2020-2022, Paris
Stained glass, 13.5 x 75 x 3.5 in.



Alison Grace Koehler
The Blues, 2020-2022, Paris
Stained glass, 20.5 x 20 x 2.5 in.

Technical characteristics of the works

Each piece contains shards of tinted, clear, or textured glass. Some of these glass fragments have been painted with enamels or grisaille. They have been soldered together with copper and a tin/lead alloy. Others have been attached to one another, or on a clear glass surface, with epoxy. The stained glass pieces have been fixed to their wooden frames with transparent silicone mastic.

Leslie McAllister

For the Exhibition “Traversées”, she will exhibit pieces from her recent series *Plein Air Abstracts*, in which she paints expressively in outdoor settings, then sculpturally involves the canvases with natural materials collected onsite.

She will also present several video works from her sound and performance project, *Lesteria*, and will give a live audio/visual performance as *Lesteria* in the gallery.

Leslie McAllister is an American multidisciplinary artist originally from Pennsylvania, who lives and works between the US and Europe. Her work incorporates elements of painting, installation, sound, and performance. For her street art project, *Lost Art*, she paints street scenes onto found objects, then returns them to where they were found. She also creates sound and performance works under the stage name *Lesteria*, combining field recorded sounds with multiple layers of her own voice. She often merges her practices to generate physical installations that feature sonic and performative components.

Recent exhibitions and performances

- 2021 *Dutot Museum 6th Annual Plein Air group exhibition / auction*,
The Antoine Dutot Museum & Gallery, Delaware Water Gap PA, USA
- 2020 *Pocono Arts Council Members Show* (first place oils), Community Gallery,
Stroudsburg PA, USA
- 2020 *Covid 19 Group Show*, Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre, Paris
- 2019 *Turtle*, group exhibition, Bienvenue Art Fair / Galerie Araud Lefebvre, Paris
- 2019 *Plein Air pour le Public* (solo performance), Château de Courances, France

Links

Website : www.lesliemcallister.com

Facebook : www.facebook.com/leslieslostart

Instagram : www.instagram.com/lesteresque

Twitter : www.twitter.com/lesteresque

Lesteria Links

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

@LesteriaSounds

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Photo © Leslie McAllister, courtesy Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre)



Leslie McAllister

Plein Air Abstract #3, Pennsylvania, 2022

Acrylic on canvas, wire, found branch, 20 x 16 in.



Leslie McAllister

Still from *Le tissu des rêves*, 2017

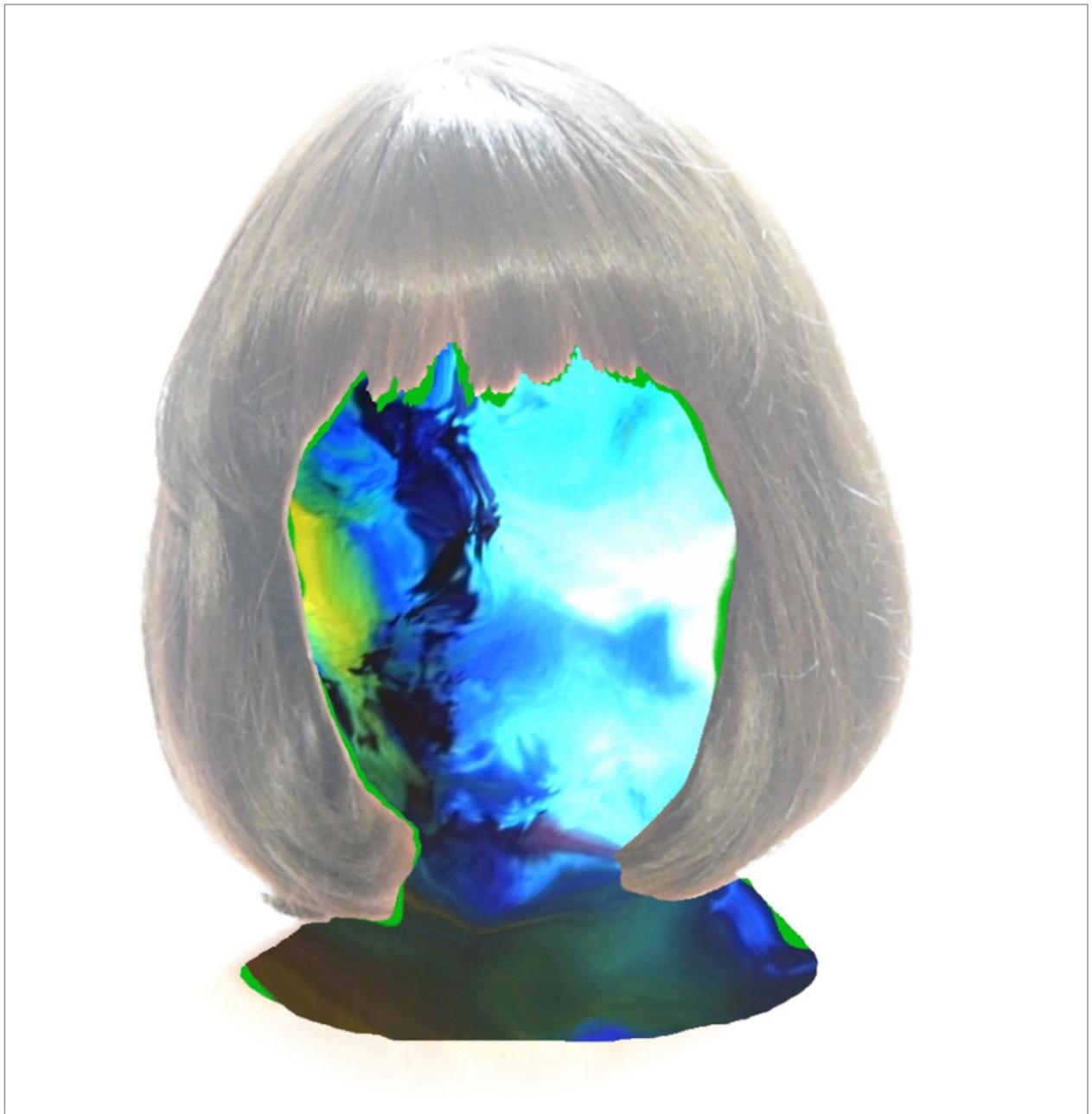
Performance video, 5 min 24 sec.



Leslie McAllister

Still from *Personare*, Lesteria 2017

Performance video, 10 min 06 sec.



Leslie McAllister

Still from *Negative Space*. Lesteria 2020

Video clip, 6 min 07 sec.

Produced by Paris Heretics

Laurent M'Bina

Excerpts from a conversation with Laurent M'Bina:

What his musician uncle taught him: "If you want to know how to play an instrument, look, know how to count. Listen to the rhythm, the intervals of music, the harmony. You have to sing in your heart, in your mind, the music you want to play."

"I think I've been creative since I was a child and the elements in which my creativity is expressed come both, I think, consciously and unconsciously, maybe more unconsciously, from a connection between tradition and modernity. I try to take advantage of what has been formed in me from childhood until now, what I have been able to reconcile from life's teachings while trying to stay positive."

On leather: "There are not many Punu pieces that use leather, I don't know of any others."

Laurent M'Bina is respectful of the movement against animal suffering. His purpose is to magnify this matter.

Laurent M'Bina was born in Gabon in 1958. He is of Punu descent. In his childhood, Laurent M'Bina benefited from the teachings of the African tradition, particularly musical, by his maternal family. He lived in Gabon until his teenage years, attending French schools. In France, he completed a DEUG in ethnomusicology and practiced jazz as a musician and teacher. He made and sold leather jewelry in the markets. Since 2014 Laurent M'Bina is homeless in Paris.

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Laurent M'Bina

Vision du Pont du Carrousel, 2022

Etching and ink on leather, 8 x 12 in.



Laurent M'Bina
Vision spatiale, 2022
Etching and ink on leather, 12 x 8 in.



Laurent M'Bina

Poissons survolés d'oiseaux, 2022

Etching and ink on leather, 12 x 8 in.



Laurent M'Bina
Arbre de vie, 2022

Etching and ink on leather, 12 x 8 in.

Jason Stoneking

“Traversées” will include the first public exhibition of his newest series, Portrait Sittings, in which he writes portraits in words of subjects who sit for him as they would for a painter. A few of the portraits will be on display, along with videos that give a peek inside the process.

Jason Stoneking will be available to write portraits by commission at the gallery, by appointment, throughout the duration of the show. After the session, the subject will receive the original handwritten manuscript. He will also compose a site-specific text during the show, which he will perform live in the gallery.

Jason Stoneking is a writer and performance artist from the United States, currently based in Paris. His practice explores an array of procedures for generating site-specific and audience-specific texts.

For his *Bespoke Books* series, Stoneking writes an entire unique book by hand, in a single draft, either for an individual reader, or in documentation of a residency.

In his video series *Found Stages*, he improvises spontaneous poems in spaces that feel suitable, if not intended, for performance.

Recent exhibitions and performances

- 2022 *De Verre en Vers*, Espace Canopy, Paris
Creation and performance of a Bespoke Book,
in response to a show by Alison Grace Koehler
- 2020/21 *Found Stages*, Pennsylvania / Instagram
Series of performance works improvised in 'found'
locations throughout the pandemic
- 2020 *Covid 19* Group Show, Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre,
Paris
- 2019 *Turtle*, Bienvenue Art Fair, chez Galerie Arnaud
Lefebvre, Paris
Creation and performance of a Bespoke Book,
in residence at the art fair
- 2018 *Bespoke Soirée*, Private venue, Paris
Performance event for the launch of the Bespoke
Books project

website : www.jasonstoneking.com

Facebook : www.facebook.com/authorjasonstoneking

Instagram : www.instagram.com/jasonstonekingthepoet

Twitter : www.twitter.com/jstoneking

YouTube : www.youtube.com/jstoneking

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Jason Stoneking

Portrait of the artist's mother, 2022

black pen on lined ivory vellum paper, Size A4

in a frame 50 x 40 cm.



Jason Stoneking

Jason Stoneking, site-specific writing project

Chateau de Courances, 2019

Photo : Chris Plytas



Jason Stoneking

Jason Stoneking, writing in residence onsite creation of a Bespoke Book
"Turtle", Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre
Cité des Arts, Paris, 2019



Jason Stoneking

Jason Stoneking, Bespoke Performance

Live reading of site-specific text

"Turtle", Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre

Cité des Arts, Paris, 2019

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