

Garrison Art Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blue Like an Orange, Paintings by Elise P. Church

January 23 – February 28, 2021

Contact: gallery@garrisonartcenter.org



Harriman Mantle



Screened in Porch,

Garrison Art Center is pleased to announce *Blue Like an Orange*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Elise P. Church. This is Ms. Church's first solo exhibition at Garrison Art Center. The works will be on view in the Gillette Gallery, Saturday, January 23 – Sunday, February 28, 2021.

The title of the show, *Blue Like an Orange*, borrows a line from Surrealist poet Paul Eluard's poem *L'Amour La Poésie* which begins with "La terre est bleue comme une orange" and follows with "words do not lie." Eluard is suggesting that poetry is a pure creation of the mind and that the poet should be free of limitations and unimpeded by conventions. Likewise, as a visual artist, Church takes her cue from Eluard when she creates evocative paintings filled with unexpected visual surprises that express a joyful freedom in their execution. Church's painterly use of color, texture and form coalesce into paintings that take on sculptural personas and delight in rich surface texture.

Paintings of still lifes and interior/exterior spaces, are based on fragments of photographs culled from a vintage photo album that Church stumbled upon at a flea market in Brooklyn years ago. The photos, dating to the mid-sixties, documented in great detail the typical life of an adolescent boy including, among other things, his dog, his first car, and ample holiday shots. Church was struck by the contrast to her own childhood of frequent moves and photo albums lost. This found trove of photos carefully documenting a childhood history fully in-tact, became a rich source of inspiration for her work and led to her collecting more photo albums from that period to be used as source material for her paintings. Church is essentially mining her past through other peoples' photographs.

Her process begins by honing in on a fragment of the photo that interests her and then dramatically enlarging it to give it new life. The fragments are a mere few inches in size but could end up as six to seven foot paintings, fully transformed. The domestic theme of her work extends to her choice of substrates where whatever household items she has on hand; linens, tablecloths, and shower curtains, are fair game, leading to works of irregular and unpredictable shapes. There is a handmade quality to the construction of the paintings that includes stitching the edges and joining pieces together that contribute to their sculptural feeling and tactile nature. The strong connectedness between the works makes the exhibition akin to an installation made up of many parts of a whole, without diminishing the strength of each individual painting.

Elise P. Church has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and is the recipient of many grants/awards and residencies. Publications include *Hyperallergic* and *DART International Magazine*, among others. She has a BSA from Skidmore College and studied art at Parsons School of Design, Paris, France and Lacoste School of Arts, Lacoste, France.

The exhibition will be on view in the Gillette Gallery running concurrent with Mison Kim's solo exhibition of works on paper, *Games, Guns, and Glory* in the Balter Gallery from January 23 through February 28.

For all press inquiries and high-resolution images contact Barbara Smith Gioia, Exhibitions Coordinator, at gallery@garrisonartcenter.org

Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm, and located on the banks of the Hudson River, next door to the Metro-North Hudson Line, Garrison stop, one hour from Grand Central. For more information about exhibitions and other programs, please visit our website www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960. Please join in the conversation with Garrison Art Center via Instagram @GarrisonArtCenter