

Joy Curtis

Night Hike and Ocean Grandma

April 5 - May 11, 2024

Opening reception: Friday, April 5, 6-8PM

Joy Curtis's new show of immersive textile sculptures takes on a folkloric quality, addressing ideas of evolution, environmental history, continuity, and change. Curtis sculpts with fabrics dyed to align with multiple historical traditions. These soft materials are quilted and sewn onto wire armatures, assembled to imply animal and plant forms, yet veering into abstraction.



Joy Curtis studio, March 2024

Roots, vertebrae, leaves, and organs drape from figurative or animaloid fabric structures, creating canopies with an ambiguous narrative. Curtis hand-dyes her cloth using techniques inspired by Nigerian (Yoruba) Adire and Japanese Shibori processes, employing natural hues such as amber, ochre, iron, and indigo. Some pieces incorporate synthetic elements, such as reflective discs sewn into the works, causing visual sparks or glimmers amidst the more subdued textiles. The mixture of materials creates rich textures, as well as both reflective and absorbent variations in the light.

Some sculptures are large and hang dramatically from the ceiling, allowing the viewer to walk underneath and between them. A series of smaller works hang on the walls, actively wearable as garments. When dressed on individuals, these sculptures transform the wearer into an extension of Curtis's formal style. Throughout the show, performers will activate the works by wearing them in the gallery.

Joy Curtis lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She has recently exhibited at the Museum of New Art in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; the Pelham Art Center; Ohio University Art Gallery; and Ceysson & Bénétière in New York. Her work was also included in the "Found Outside" exhibition at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. Her practice has been covered in the New Yorker, Hyperallergic, Time Out New York, and Artcritical.

For images or more information please contact the gallery at 212-777-7756 or email klaus@klausgallery.com.

Gallery Hours: 11AM–6PM, Tuesday through Saturday

Subway Directions: 1 train at Franklin Street, 4 5 6, J M, N R Q W, and A C E at Canal Street