

MASS MoCA

ARTIST LILY COX-RICHARD EXAMINES MATERIALITY, REUSE, AND THE VALUE OF OBJECTS

***Weep Holes* is on view at MASS MoCA from March 12, 2022 through December 2022**

North Adams, Massachusetts – February 2, 2022 – The Massachusetts Museum of Art (MASS MoCA) has announced artist Lily Cox-Richard's *Weep Holes*, an exhibition of all new work that addresses ideas of stewardship, beauty and threat, collective action, and building and dismantling. *Weep Holes* is curated by MASS MoCA senior curator and director of exhibitions Denise Markonish and will be on view from March 12, 2022 through December 2022.

While in residence at the Recycled Artists in Residency Program (RAIR) in Philadelphia, PA, Cox-Richard became fascinated by a giant bale of tinsel, and how the material transformed from its use in celebrations to trash. This object becomes the centerpiece of a series of new works in *Weep Holes*, all of which reflect Cox-Richard's ongoing interest in materiality, reuse, and how we value objects. In addition, Cox-Richard is interested in the way materials can be seen as symbols of care. This is reflected in the title of the exhibition, *Weep Holes*, which comes from a term used in masonry relating to the alleviation of pressure points in brick to allow for water to pass through without rupture. Cox-Richard aligns this with how much of society feels in our present politically tense environment.

In recent work, Cox-Richard has been interested in creating sculpture as aggregate – casts of objects mixed with plaster and other materials to create a new kind of building material. Cox-Richard uses this as the starting point for a series of interrelated sculptures that seem to proliferate from the architecture of MASS MoCA. Viewers will encounter fire hoses woven around existing columns, turning an object of safety into one that binds space together. They will see sand castles bursting out from bags meant to abate water. In another space, cages used to grow tomatoes are woven together with the invasive plant kudzu, creating a series of starburst-shaped sculptures. The tinsel bale will sit on a floating pedestal while a video of it and a new kinetic sculpture made of a drone-turned-chandelier surveys this surreal object. And lastly the drone itself, accompanied by a soothing soundtrack of purring, will sit in a gallery with a large-scale version of a hand-tied, 16-foot Shaker broom made of recycled material from the waste stream and created while Cox-Richard was in residence at MASS MoCA. "*Weep Holes* aims to exist in a future where tenderness can also be a form of action and resistance," said Denise Markonish, curator of the exhibition. "At this fraught moment in time, Cox-Richard's work reminds us of the power of regeneration and the need for rebirth. Her work functions like a call to arms, but these arms are an embrace, a reminder of the importance of collective care and how it can be a steady dismantling force."

Lily Cox-Richard (she/her/LCR) makes sculptures and installations that take up details of cultural and material histories to explore porousness, energy exchange, and paths of resistance. LCR has been awarded an Artadia grant, a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, a postdoctoral fellowship in the University of Michigan's Society of Fellows, and residencies at the Core Program, Millay Colony, RAIR Philadelphia, and the MacDowell Colony. Recent solo exhibitions include *Yvonne* (Guatemala City), *Artpace* (San Antonio, TX), *Diverseworks* (Houston, TX), *Hirschl & Adler Modern* (New York), *The Blanton Museum of Art* (Austin, TX). LCR studies, forages, and practices in Tsenacommacah /

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Richmond, VA, on land that, for thousands of years, has been inhabited and cared for by Indigenous people, including the Pamunkey, Monacan, Chickahominy, and many other tribes untold and forcibly disappeared.

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About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest centers for making and enjoying today's most evocative art. With vast galleries and a stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, MASS MoCA is able to embrace all forms of art: music, sculpture, dance, film, painting, photography, theater, and new, boundary-crossing works of art that defy easy classification. Much of the work we show in our light-filled spaces, on our technically sophisticated stages, and within our lovely network of late 19th-century courtyards is made here during extended fabrication and rehearsal residencies that bring hundreds of the world's most brilliant and innovative artists to North Adams all year round. For more information about MASS MoCA, visit www.massmoca.org.

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