



Help! I'm a Rock! new work by Jack Arthur Wood and Lauren Clark

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Exhibition can be previewed: <https://www.reservoirstudios.nyc/conduit-gallery>

February 2021 – The pandemic has flipped the way we used to do things on its head. It has been a time of change, of re-prioritization, a chance to confront one's fears and refocus on silver linings. In this time of upheaval, and in the context of creativity despite challenges on every level, Conduit Gallery at Reservoir Studios is excited to present *Help! I'm a Rock!*, new work by Jack Arthur Wood and Lauren Clark, on view February 27 – April 24, 2021.

The title of the show is inspired by the Frank Zappa song of the same name, and features paintings made during the past ten months, as the couple isolated in close quarters, the work becoming a visual phrasing, an unspoken conversation between the two of them. Jack and Lauren had an experience uniquely particular to the pandemic: they moved in together for the first time; they quarantined together; they made work in a live/work space together; they became each other's closest point of human contact. In this closeness, their work became each other's muses, with rhythms and understandings expressed as they became each other's foundation of emotional support from which to cope and navigate the changed landscape without.

The work acts as a call and an answer, with more of an association to the partnership of Neo Rausch and Rosa Loy than to that of Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz. Jack Arthur Wood's collages and paintings sparkle with light as if refracted through turquoise-colored gemstones, revealing internal environments of the mind. Lauren Clark's paintings possess passages that read as glowing embers, emanating umbilical warmth, as if revealing internal environments of the body. This work, hallucinatory at times in its intensity, also possesses a constancy—a rock holding firm while the sea crashes all around it.

What are you when you become someone else's rock, and feel just as dependent on them to be your rock? In making this work together, Jack and Lauren have created a bridge, a shelter, a journey of raw searching, a dawn breaking, a window into a cave of light and shadow, a primordial environment ripe with creative potential, and a mirror from which to recognize each other. Both see their work as a form of spiritual continuity; Lauren Clark in her connection to the visionary Shaker Gift Drawings of her hometown and in medieval analogical beliefs around the transformation of matter to spirit; and Jack Arthur Wood in the devotional nature of his studio practice, each painting a focal point of confession, meditation, and ritualized creative intention.

Jack Arthur Wood and Lauren Clark are based in Ridgewood, Queens. Jack Arthur Wood has an MFA in printmaking from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, and Lauren Clark is an MFA candidate at Hunter College.

An opening will be held from 1-5pm on Saturday, February 27th, and the exhibition will be on view by appointment at Conduit Gallery at Reservoir Studios, 659 Woodward Av, Ridgewood, NY 11385 – contact cb@caetlynnbooth.com to schedule a visit. The show will be on view February 27 to April 24, 2021.

Images: Lauren Clark *The Tower*, oil and dye on linen on panel, 20" x 18"; Jack Arthur Wood, *Concentric Rings Amplify the Light Beam*, acrylic, paper, linen and laval on panel, 14" x 18"

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