



10D

EMMA SAFIR  
**GIRANDOLE**

# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE

10D is pleased to announce its second exhibition, *Girandole*, featuring new work by New York-based artist Emma Safir. Within Safir's labor-intensive practice, photography, domestic space, the body, and the archive are ever-present polestars, guiding work that unfolds in many directions, and significant even when they aren't immediately visible. Detail views of slashed silk and velvet from Tudor-era portraits, depictions of the Veil of Veronica from across the ages, a burgeoning typology of decorative fire screens to shield women's faces from the flush-inducing, cosmetics-melting heat of the fire—here are points of concentrated study in a studio governed by material interest. And here begins Safir's devoted tracery of the tensions at play in an intimate world: between the long labor of making, and the index of a moment; the body, and a world that holds and hazards it; between visibility and touch; opacity and generosity; utility and decoration. Between the density of the archive, and the porosity of try-it-out-and-see.

The *girandole* (a French term, rooted in Latin) is an ornamental branched candlestick, usually wall-mounted and bracketing a central mirror. Holding, framing, and reflecting light, the two-armed fixtures were displayed in pairs throughout the 17th century, with the potential to reflect the domestic space they occupied—and one another—into infinity. But the word has other associations—older, adjacent meanings. Earlier in the century, the word referred primarily to rotating clusters of fireworks, scattering light across the night sky. It's an etymology that makes sense. One conveyance of radiating light begets another.

In her exhibition, *Girandole*, Safir builds from a process honed through her “paintings”—window and door-scaled panels of silk, printed abstractly with images of domestic spaces seen through patterned privacy glass. In the paintings, painstaking digital manipulation follows the moment of photographic capture, defamiliarizing spaces that were already partially unknowable (thanks to the privacy glass's gentle refusal), but still, perhaps, grounded in the real. Photographs—re-photographed, collaged, blown up, degraded, radiant—diffuse into fractures, swirls, and caustics; lit-from-within oil slicks with periodic gasps of emerald, crimson, and pink. Once the image has been printed onto silk, Safir coaxes it back toward a more complex geometry with the addition of eyelets, smocking, applique, radial yo-yos, and lace.

Safir's presentation at 10D features work from a new series of metal castings, made from molds of smocked silk that appears in the artist's paintings, and from impressions of the early 20th-century radiators she encountered in her studio space at Headlands Center for the Arts during a residency in the fall of 2023. Working with pewter, aluminum, and occasionally bismuth, Safir heats and pours the molten metal in her own apartment kitchen, enacting an alchemical transformation in a space usually reserved for more ordinary rituals. Cherubs and serpents emerge from whorls that gleam, pit, and pool according to the idiosyncrasies of the mold and the generosity of the artist's pouring hand. Here, the result is a shining nautilus; the ornate frame of the girandole, whose mirrored face is replaced by a web of reflective lace that's barely there until the brutal flash of a camera shines it into being.

Safir has referred to her metal castings as “photographs,” foregrounding their relationship to indexicality and to forms made legible through light. Like photographs, the castings are also subject to chance and capable of illusion even (or because of) their relationship to the real.

Rosebud-like nodules with distinctly flat faces and longer, burnished planes reveal where the metal exceeded the mold and spread, creating a more insistently reflective surface where recognizable form dissolves into pure light. Dodge and burn; try it out and see. The alchemy of Safir's kitchen isn't far off from the alchemy of the dark room. Smaller castings appear as “charms” in a number of Safir's recent silk panel paintings, but in *Girandole*, the casting stands alone, suggesting new possibilities for a body of work that is at once autonomous, palimpsestic, and circular.

KELLY LONG



# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE

**Emma Safir**

*Untitled, 2023*

Cast pewter and reflective thread  
10 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (25.72 x 13.34 cm)

# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE



**Emma Safir**

*Untitled, 2023*

Graphite on paper

9 11/16 x 12 in. (24.61 x 30.48 cm)

10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE



# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE



**Emma Safir**

*Untitled, 2023*

Toner print

Sheet: 8.5 x 11 in. (21.59 x 27.94 cm)

Image: 7 7/8 x 10 5/8 in. 20.00 x 26.99 cm)



# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE

# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE

Emma Safir

b. 1990, New York

## Education

2019-2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, MFA in Painting & Printmaking  
2008-2012 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI, BFA in Printmaking

## Solo Exhibitions

2024 10D, Manhattan NY, curated by Selena Parnon  
2023 Baxter St at CCNY, Photofairs, Modern Prometheus, Manhattan NY, programming partner  
2023 Houseguest Gallery, Louisville KY, fabric of my Affectionate Memory, curated by Megan Bickel  
2023 Blade Study, Manhattan NY, peripeteia, curated by Andrew Gardner  
2022 Baxter St at CCNY, Manhattan NY, Glitches and Veils, curated by Sally Eaves Hughes  
2021 SHIN HAUS at Shin Gallery, Manhattan NY, September at SHIN HAUS, curated by Sarah G. Park  
2019 The Java Project, Brooklyn NY, Moire, curated by Dakota Sika  
2018 Gallery Co.Co., Brooklyn NY, Press, curated by Gerardo Ismael Madera and Nicholas Weltyk  
2017 Bunker Projects, Pittsburgh PA, Picture Planes, curated by Bunker Projects

## Group Exhibitions

2024 Rain Rain Gallery, Manhattan NY, What Do Angels Look Like?, curated by Rain Lu  
2023 Pen & Brush, Manhattan NY, NOW: As a Consequence of Fact, curated by Parker Daley Garcia  
2023 Hesse Flatow East, Amagansett NY, Trodden Path  
2023 Charles Moffett Gallery, Manhattan NY, Genius Loci, curated by José Chavez - Verduzco  
2023 A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton MA, digital slip, curated by Kelly Clare  
2023 Jack Barrett Gallery, Manhattan NY, Plant a Weed, curated by Francesca Altamura  
2022 Ki Smith Gallery, Manhattan NY, (un)Timely Untethered Pt. 2, curated by Bruno Smith  
2022 Ryan Lee Gallery, Manhattan NY, ritual being, curated by Martine Gutierrez  
2022 Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles LA, Midnight Murmurs  
2022 Textile Arts Center, Brooklyn NY, Liminality, AiR Annual Exhibition  
2022 Heroes Gallery, Manhattan NY, Gnaw, curated by Anna Stothart, part of the Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program  
2021 TW Fine Art, Brooklyn NY, Direct Message, curated by Preston Douglas  
2021 Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia PA, illusions and other protective spells, curated by Christine Pfister  
2021 Lyles & King, Manhattan NY, In Praise of Shadows, curated by Ebony L. Haynes  
2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, In Praise of Shadows, thesis exhibition curated by Ebony L. Haynes

2020 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, This Time We Know Each Other, second year graduate group show  
2019 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, We Don't Really Know Each Other, first year graduate group show  
2018 The Java Project, Brooklyn NY, Elastic Behavior, curated by Memory Foam  
2017 Demo Project, Springfield IL, Unfurnished, curated by Erin Hayden  
2016 Project Space / Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada, Vistas, self curated  
2016 University Galleries at William Paterson University, Paterson NJ, Ink, Press, Repeat, juried by Phil Sanders  
2016 Kala Art Institute, Berkeley CA, Artist's Annual Exhibition, curated by Kala Art Institute

## Residencies

2023 Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin CA, Artist in residence  
2023 Macedonia Institute, Chatham NY, Artist in residence  
2022-2023 Lower East Side Printshop, Manhattan NY, Keyholder Residency  
2021-2022 Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program, Manhattan NY, participant  
2021-2022 Textile Arts Center, Brooklyn NY, Artist in residence  
2016-2017 Bunker Projects, Pittsburgh PA, Artist in residence  
2016 Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada, Artist in residence  
2016 Kala Art Institute, Berkeley CA, Artist in residence  
2015 Intercambiador ACART, Madrid, Spain, Artist in residence

## Awards

2023 Photofairs, Manhattan NY, Special Project with Baxter St at CCNY, Inaugural 21c Acquisition Prize  
2023 Urban Glass, Brooklyn NY, scholarship  
2022 Baxter St at CCNY, Manhattan NY, Glitches and Veils, curated by Sally Eaves Hughes, Curatorial Open Call  
2022 Dieu Donné, Brooklyn NY, Summer Paper Institute Scholarship  
2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, YSoA x Hundreds Post Graduate Fellowship  
2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, Helen Watson Winternitz Award in recognition of an outstanding student in Painting & Printmaking  
2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, Student Marshal on behalf of the class of '21  
2021 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, Teaching Assistantship, The Work of Art in the Age of \_\_\_\_, Revisited taught by Cassandra Guan  
2020 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, Teaching Assistantship, Color Practice taught by Anoka Faruqee  
2020 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT, Critical Practice Grant  
2016 Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada, Flair Foundation Artist Award



# 10D

EMMA SAFIR: GIRANDOLE

## Special Projects

- 2022-2023 Commission for Meta, Manhattan NY, curated by Andrew Gardner
- 2021-2022 Commission for LinkedIn, Empire State Building, Manhattan NY, facilitated by Acrylicize, curated by Francesca Altamura
- 2021 Sounds, New York, Beach towel collaboration

## Lectures & Workshops

- 2024 Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, Art History Department, hosted by Susan Sidlauskas
- 2023 University of Washington, Seattle WA, Artist Talk, hosted by Carly Sheehan, studio visits with current MFA students
- 2023 Brooklyn College, Brooklyn NY, Visiting Artist, hosted by Tamen Pérez
- 2023 Photofairs, Manhattan NY, Photography & Materiality, in conversation with Jil Weinstock and Elliott Jerome Brown Jr.
- 2023 KMAC Contemporary Art Museum, Louisville KY, Artist Talk with Megan Bickel facilitated by Houseguest Gallery
- 2022 Designtex, Open Forum, Manhattan NY, Artist Talk presenting on LinkedIn Empire State Building commission
- 2022 Jack Shainman Gallery, Manhattan NY, Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program Symposium, in conversation with Meleko Mokgozi and Cassandra Guan, also featuring Natalie Frate, Alexandra Iglesia, Iris Ward Loughran, Katy Pinke, Alicia Riccio, Emma Safir, and Ambika Trasi
- 2022 Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program, Manhattan NY, Cyborgs and Demigods, in collaboration with Sydney Shavers
- 2022 Baxter Street at CCNY, Manhattan NY, in conversation with Ebony L. Haynes, Sally Eaves Hughes
- 2022 Baxter Street at CCNY, Manhattan NY, Digitally Real, workshop with Luiza Dale
- 2022 Princeton University, Princeton NJ, Artist Lecture, hosted by Troy Michie
- 2021 Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, Art History Department, Intermediality between Painting and Photography, taught by Susan Sidlauskas and Andrés Zervigón
- 2020 CUE Art Foundation, NYC NY, ART@COVID.EDU: Studio Art MFAs and the Cost of Remote Learning
- 2015 CES Felipe Segundo, Centro de Estudios Superiores, Aranjuez, Spain October 2015
- 2015 Complutense Universidad de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, Works in Progress, October 19, 2015

## Press

- 2024 Interview with Emma Safir, Brainard Carey for Museum of Nonvisible Art and Yale University Radio
- 2023 Helen Toomer on the Debut of PHOTOFAIRS New York, Kathy Donohue for whitewall
- 2023 New York Art Week: The Armory Show and Photofairs, Annabel Keenan for Artillery

- 2022 How to See and Feel the Salt Dissolved in the Sea - on Emma Safir's "Woven Mirrors I", Ho Won Kim for SALT, MODA Critical Review Vol.3
- 2022 A quest for opacity: Emma Safir's sculptural digital collages, Carlota Ortiz Monasterio for Poltern
- 2021 5 Artists on Our Radar in October 2021, Shannon Lee for Artsy
- 2021 New Talent: 5 Painters Inspired by Digital Mediums, Shanti Escalante-De Mattei for ARTnews
- 2019 Interview with Emma Safir, Elizabeth Corkery, Print Club LTD.

## Publications

- 2023 peripeteia, exhibition publication published by Blade Study, designed by Jinu Hong with contributions by Andrew Gardner, Jennifer Pranolo, Kara Güt and Tobi Kassim



**10D**  
**DXTEN.COM**  
**SP@DXTEN.COM**