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PSG Prince Street Gallery

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From the *Shipwreck Series*, 2023, collage on paper, 20 x 14 in.

Mixed Media painter Mary Crenshaw touches on the European migrant crisis with:

Shipwreck

June 20 - July 8

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 22, 5 - 8 pm

Mary Crenshaw is exhibiting mixed media paintings on canvas, works on paper, ceramics, and a limited-edition artist book on Tuesday, June 20 through Saturday July 8. SHIPWRECK will feature large-scale poured enamel paintings on unstretched canvas combined with collage and sewn fabric shapes suspended and attached to steel braces that come out from the wall. Smaller mixed media paintings with collage and cut-out shapes will be on display, together with an artist book and ceramic “poetry plates” made in collaboration with poet/activist *edre*. Abstract mark-making and comical renditions of body fragments suggest the cultural upheaval that asylum seekers bring.

The artist believes relocation results in positive change and, with this work, wants to bring to the public’s attention to the European migrant crisis. Having lived in Italy for decades, Crenshaw experienced first-hand the difficult process of obtaining Italian citizenship. Her encounters with migrants at that time made her adamant about addressing the topic. Crenshaw explains, “Getting fingerprinted at the Milan Police Station for a criminal record background check, along with a group of Eritrean boys around the same age as my then teenage sons, and witnessing their fear, made me realize I had to do something. I figured the best way to speak up was through my art.

Crenshaw explains, “In 2022 *edre* worked in Brighton, aiding asylum seekers. She chronicled her experiences in poems describing her involvement with them. Collaborating with her on the artist book has enriched my practice considerably, and led to other collaborations that we will exhibit and perform next year at Poplar Union Arts Centre during London Refugee Week”.

About the artist: Mary Crenshaw, born in Richmond Virginia, lives and works in Milan, Italy. She received a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from VCU, an MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design in Visual Arts and completed a DFA from The University of East London in Visual Art with a body of work titled *Dislocation and Materiality*. Crenshaw has exhibited in Europe and the United States, and participated in residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, Centre D’Art Marnay, The Art Students League at Vyt, the Atina Residency, and most recently at Perri Neri’s The Livingroom in Manhattan. Her work is represented in New York by The Painting Center.

About the poet: *edre* graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science. A creative writer, performer, and Hungarian translator, she recently worked as a migrant rescue ai in Brighton.

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm

For more information: info@princestreetgallery.com.

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To view exhibition online: princestreetgallery.com

Additional images follow:



Mary Crenshaw, *Stop the Madness*, 2022
mixed media, 118 x 85 in.



Mary Crenshaw, *Inundated*, 2022
enamel on tee shirt,
broken enamel plate, 47 x 35 in.



Mary Crenshaw, *artist book*, 2022
poem by *edre*
Silkscreen on paper,
shoelace grommets, 12 x 18"

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