

# HEADSTONE

## *Abundant Sunshine*

David Garland

May 4 - 26, 2024

For Immediate Release:

It is with tremendous gratitude Headstone presents David Garland's first solo gallery exhibition, *Abundant Sunshine*. Garland showcases a collection of nineteen extraordinary photographs of reflected/refracted sunlight captured through his camera lens during the past two years. His work finds the emotion and poetry in optical phenomena - celestial, crisply geometric, vibrantly saturated, and mysterious. *Abundant Sunshine* offers wonder and rich discovery, unlocking what is now an obvious door between what we see in the world around us, and what is beyond the eye's normal reach. Garland's fascination with seeing appears to have opened our universe a bit wider.

Curiosity is the most valuable tool Garland possesses. It led him to his early visual art, to making music as a composer and performer, and to a 28-year career on the air at WNYC New York Public Radio. Garland was just beginning to return to visual art through the new-for-him medium of photography when his wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer in late 2018, and died in 2019. Since then, as an aspect of his grieving process, and as a way to newly perceive and experience the world, he's been intensely involved in the experiments that have led to his unique approach to photography.

All photography could be said to be about light, but in Garland's work the behavior of reflected sunlight — and its interaction with the camera — is the sole subject. And because the physics of light connects to the physics of anatomy, biology, geology, astronomy, etc., his images combine mystery with familiarity. Garland's new body of work expands our comprehension of light, documenting its choreography and its exuberant nature. Garland writes, "this is solar powered nature photography, and my images are discovered, as much as created." His revelatory work requires the viewer to rethink how they look, and unearth a deeper daily observation. Garland's photography nestles itself within abstract contemporaries - early internetscape stills by Cory Archangel and sentimental snapshots from Wolfgang Tillman.

*Abundant Sunshine* strategically poses Garland's work as an epic ticket to the experience of realization. In Jeanette Winterson's, "The Passion," she writes, "The Dark only lets you take one step at a time. Step and the Dark closes round your back. In front, there is no space for you until you take it. Darkness is absolute." Garland has refused to be engulfed in darkness, and has found the sliver of light that connects one with hope.

David Garland graduated with honors from Rhode Island School of Design in 1976. He then lived in New York City for 40 years, using his design training and sensibility to create music, and also radio programs. He produced and hosted Spinning On Air, which for 28 years (1987-2015) was a radio show of music and interviews on WNYC, New York Public Radio. After moving to rural upstate New York 13 years ago, Garland has gradually returned to visual art-making, and during the past three years has become deeply involved in his unique experimental photography practice. His photos of reflected sunlight are seen chiefly on Instagram, where they've garnered 25,000+ followers. Garland had a one-person exhibit of his photos at HiLo in Catskill, NY, in 2022. One of his photographs was included in the Kingston Annual 2021, a juried art show by the Arts Society of Kingston, and another in PHOTOcentric 2023, a curated group show at Garrison Art Center in Garrison, NY. This is Garland's first solo exhibition.

Also, Garland has been creating and releasing music since the mid-1980s. He's a stylistically unusual composer, singer, and multi-instrumentalist. He has worked with a wide range of artists on his music, including John Zorn, Sufjan Stevens, Christian Marclay, Vashti Bunyan, Sean Lennon, Yoko Ono, and Meredith Monk. He has performed his music at CBGBs, Carnegie Hall, and elsewhere. His current music projects include Garlands (a duo with his son), and Music for Furniture (an improvising ensemble).

Established in 2022 by co-directors Lauren Aitken and Chase Folsom, Headstone is a 1,200sq ft gallery specializing in contemporary artwork showcased through two-person and solo exhibitions. Our commitment lies in championing our artists' ideas, processes, and finished works, ensuring their sales and livelihoods are supported. We offer a contemporary space along with essential assistance to nurture and realize their artistic vision, recognizing the importance of artwork fitting into life. With meticulous curation and a profound love for the art world, we unite emerging and established artists, some yet to receive broader critical and commercial recognition.

We advocate for equity and accessibility in the arts, striving to welcome all who wish to engage. Through artist exhibitions, Headstone aims to foster community, forge connections, and cultivate a diverse melting pot of artists, creatives, collectors, and community members.

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 4th, 5pm-8pm

Gallery Hours:

Friday - Sunday, Noon to 5 pm

Or by appointment

Headstone Gallery

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