

**Caroline Kent**

**A short play about watching shadows move  
across the room**

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*Accessible exhibition wall text and labels*

**QUEENS MUSEUM**

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### ***A short play about watching shadows move across the room***

In *A short play about watching shadows move across the room*, painted images and high-relief sculptures merge into scenes that both break interpretation and underscore its tensions. Using an all black background as her base, Caroline Kent brings together “shadow shapes,” improvised figures and hand-painted floor plans to construct domestic spaces — depicting rooms, grids, and plant life.

The pastel palette used throughout the mural recalls the Rococo and Eastern Baroque architectures of Transylvania, where Kent spent time as a Peace Corps volunteer. Imposed over the colorful forms, the floor plans provide an experimental landscape for communication and exchange. Across the imagined map, multidimensional sculptures are then able “to move from blackness, to shadow, to

surface, and to relief.” In their fluidity, the layered objects create a notation that prioritizes intuition and mutability and evades the confinement of definition.

Throughout her practice, Kent, an abstract painter and text-based artist, uses multilayered compositions to consider the limits of verbal expression and the vastness of the unknown. Characterized by black landscapes and floating objects, her paintings attempt to make clear the space of possibility that precedes the invention of language and the limits of definition. Widening the margins of modernist abstraction, Kent’s improvisational mark-making manipulates the rhythms and tones of communication to arrive at a visual vocabulary that surpasses cultural differences. Through an expansive visual form, Kent conjures a realm for feeling and expression while leaving room for meaning that is silent, secret, and unknowable.

*Caroline Kent: A short play about watching shadows move across the room* is organized by Lauren Haynes, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Programs with Amari-Grey Johnson, Curatorial Assistant. This exhibition is produced in cooperation with Tradecraft Crating; the QM team: Brian Balderston, Lindsey Berfond, Hayley Blackstone, Sarah Cho, Gianina Enriquez, Catherine Grau, Mayisha Hassan, Hitomi Iwasaki, Adrienne Koteen, Lynn Maliszewski, Gabriela Peralta, Aaron Strauss, Heryte T. Tequame, Tiffany Tong, and Maria Fernanda Zambrano; and QM fabricators and preparators Max Bell, Noemi Bilger, Jackson Denahy, Mark Dwinell, Magnus Gitt Henderson, Brittany Hayden, Taly Kornblum Laudi, Clare Koury, Martin Kramer, Ajay Kurian, Samantha Lasko, Juyon Lee, Jetaime Nkiru, Mallie Sanford, Claude Viaud Peralta; and Eco Management LLC: Ruth Hofheimer, Millree Hughes, Michael Nirenberg, and Chad Stayrook.

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An audio description narrated by Amari-Grey Johnson, Curatorial Assistant, can be found on the Queens Museum Digital Guide, available for free on the Bloomberg Connects App.



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