

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****LOCAL: ART + IDEAS** presents**HEATHER DIVOKY | ADORNED: THE CROWN AFFAIR**September – December 2020 || Online at [www.local-art-ideas.com](http://www.local-art-ideas.com)

September 2020 || Storefront at Gravity Records @gravityrecords

**LOCAL: ART + IDEAS** is pleased to present **HEATHER DIVOKY | ADORNED: THE CROWN AFFAIR**, an online exhibition and sale of Divoky's handmade and wearable crowns.

**DIVOKY'S** crowns, which combine the paper cutouts of her finely-detailed drawings with a wire armature, celebrate and debunk a crown's entrenched qualities of status, power, and achievement. Referencing her studied knowledge of the history of crowns, Divoky constructs each piece with intentional symbolism. The effect is one of resounding contradictions and concurrences. Her drawn cutouts represent gemstones, flowers, plants, celestial symbols, insects, sea-life, and other elements taken from culture and nature. The artist uses copper and silver wire of the ordinary kind – no fine metals found here. In her unconventional paper counterparts, durable and valuable diamonds become nearly ephemeral, while ephemeral and emblematic flowers live on. Her crown design is foretelling, too, whether the artist references the Crown of Charlemagne, a Roman deity's diadem of gold, or Queen Victoria's bridal headdress of flowers. And the pieces are equally as empowering: like the plastic (and gendered) princess crowns children pine for, you too can enact your own realm of myth, magic, and majesty.

**ADORNED: THE CROWN AFFAIR** will showcase eleven crowns, with themes including floral iconographies, gem and metal mythologies, site specificity, personal memories, travel, astronomy, *memento mori*, and goddess personifications. As art objects and functional art, Divoky's crowns may be hung on a wall, rest on a surface, or worn.

**HEATHER DIVOKY** (b. 1989) creates dense, detailed, and elaborate drawing-based works concerned with illustrative storytelling. Relying on line, bold and varying colors, and spatial flatness, the artist's drawings combine repetitive, mosaic-like patterning with linear definitions to create visually intense narratives that draw upon cultural references ranging from mythology to current events. Her relentless line and often nonreferential coloring create works both descriptive and fanciful. Her primary media are marker, ink, color pencil, paper, wire, and touches of paint.

**DIVOKY** grew up mostly in North Carolina. She studied art and art history at Appalachian State University (BA) and Leiden University, Netherlands (MA). Recent solo exhibitions include *Bounce Back: A Visual Narrative of Hurricane Florence* (Leland Cultural Arts Center, NC, 2019), *Ephemerides* (24 South Coffee House, Wilmington, 2019), and *Superdoodles* (MOFU Shoppe, Raleigh, 2018). Divoky is a two-time recipient of the Arts Council of Wilmington Regional Artist Project Grant (2015 and 2019), and received the Anthony Lees Memorial Award at the Wilmington Art Association's 35th Annual Juried Exhibition (2017). Articles on her work have appeared in *Encore Magazine* (2019) and *Wrightsville Beach Magazine* (2017). She is an educator at DREAMS Center for Arts Education (Wilmington) and an arts administrator at the Leland Cultural Arts Center.

**LOCAL: ART + IDEAS** is a think tank based in Wilmington, NC, that champions nonhierarchical approaches to artistic production and reception. We promote regional artists and introduce their work to new audiences nearby and nationally through a variety of programming, including private art viewings, site-specific installations, and temporary and online exhibitions. We seek to showcase the art and ideas that flourish beyond dominant cultural networks and geocentric metropolis.

**BETH HANDLER RIEBE** founded **LOCAL** in 2013. Riebe worked in the NYC art world for twenty years, with curatorial stints at The Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Yale University Art Gallery. She served as an art consultant to Donald B. Marron (one of ARTnews' top 200 collectors). She is a former Trustee at the Cameron Art Museum and occasionally teaches art history at UNCW. Riebe received a BA from Oberlin College, and an MA and a PhD from Yale University, with all degrees in art history.