

# Lunar Cycle: Kahori Kamiya

Curated by A.E. Chapman

**ELM Foundation | The Boiler**

191 North 14th st. Brooklyn, NY

**November 30th – December 21st, 2023**

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 1 – 6pm

**Opening reception: Thursday, November 30th 6:30-9pm**

Image: *Unfading Love*  
30 x 12 x 12"  
clay, plaster, gold leaf,  
pigment, gouache



The Boiler is proud to present ***Lunar Cycle: Kahori Kamiya***, an exhibition showcasing Kamiya's exploration of the powerful, mystical elements of her personal experience as a mother and the philosophical influence of ancient Japanese spirituality within her work. By embracing this heritage, Kamiya's work activates universal existential concerns via her approach rooted in ancestral iconography and practices. Furthermore, Kamiya's experience with nursing led the artist to explore the ancient Japanese concept of "*chichi-yama*" meaning breast mountain. This idea, which associates mountains with nurturing and sustenance, affirmed her fascination with the profound relationship between the human body and nature.

In *Unfading Love*, one of Kamiya's new go-shintai sculptures, protective, heavy, black bands resembling armor wrap around a swirling mass of inviting, creamy, ethereal material scattered with glinting gold. Translating to the sacred body of the kami, go-shintai refers to portals joining terrestrial and spiritual realms such as those found in nature including waterfalls, trees, and mountains as well as forms made by humans traditionally incorporating precious stones, mirrors, and swords. The word kami references objects and beings such as spirits, animals, and people possessing powerful charisma.

Evident throughout Kamiya's go-shintai sculptures, the capricious interplay of shadow, light, and form provides an intimate impression of spiritual life within the works and manifests their capacity to mediate an interior and exterior relationship between the viewer and object. This challenging visual presentation of light and shadow beckons the viewer to come nearer. Evoking the ultimately eternal cosmos, the ornate all-over swirls of black and gold guide the eye through diverging, intersecting, and overlapping pathways, woven as parts of a whole, suggesting a sense of ecology throughout the object.

In Kamiya's new video *Once there, Will be there*, installed in a small corridor that feels both like a cave and the womb, she explores connections between Shinto beliefs and AI-generated suns. Transforming her personal nursing log into AI-generated sound, Kamiya links the human cycle of life with the sun, a cosmological symbol historically associated with deities and the supernatural. Aiming to bridge the spiritual and technological, Kamiya envisions AI as a potential god or superpower to come.

*Lunar Cycle* exhibits Kamiya's nimble negotiation of form and the formless as well as the mystical bounty found within the interstitial space between terrestrial and spiritual life.



## **PUBLIC WORKSHOPS**

Saturday, December 2nd - Steam Works: Intuitive Painting with Kahori Kamiya 2:00–4:00 pm

Sunday, December 17th - Portfolio Review Adult Workshop 1:00–3:00 pm with special Sunday viewing hours 3:00–5:00 pm

## **ABOUT KAHORI KAMIYA**

(b. Nagoya, Japan; lives and works in New York.)

Kahori Kamiya relocated to New York, where she earned her second MFA in Fine Art from the School of Visual Arts. She is a recipient of the Puffin Foundation Grant and an ISCP residency. Her recent works have been featured by *Hyperallergic*, *Art Spiel*, WMHT Public Media TV, and Transborder Art TV. She has held solo exhibitions at the Amos Eno Gallery and Prospect Gallery, and her art has been exhibited at notable venues, including the SPRING/BREAK Art Show, Flux Factory, 14th Media Art Biennale, Dumbo Arts Festival, and Oculus Westfield World Trade Center, among others.

## **ABOUT THE BOILER**

An exhibition space housing a historic boiler built in 1937, The Boiler operates inside ELM Foundation, a community nonprofit arts organization in North Brooklyn that provides inclusive and accessible arts engagement for the public. An extension of ELM, The Boiler supports its mission of advocating for the benefits of art through exhibitions and programs that provide equitable access to the space and promotes diversity within contemporary arts. Programming at The Boiler includes several series that intersect with exhibitions. Designed as a free workshop for youth, students participating in the Steam Works series engage in projects with exhibiting artists that relate to their practice and displayed work.

## **ABOUT ELM FOUNDATION**

ELM Foundation is a community-based nonprofit that promotes the healing and transformative power of the arts. Our methods include advocating the benefits of arts therapy, providing multidisciplinary arts education, and facilitating a nurturing environment for self-expression, all working together to form a regenerative creative collective.

