



**PALO Gallery Presents *A Vehement Flame*, a Photography Exhibition of Love and Passion  
by Lauren Massie and Lily Burgess**

**July 10th – August 28th, 2024**

*“Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death;  
jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement  
flame.” – (Song of Solomon 8:6, King James Version)*



*Cross*, 2023, Polaroid film, 16 x 20 inches

**PALO Gallery** is delighted to present a series of self-portraits by photographers **Lauren Massie** and **Lily Burgess**. Opening **July 10, 2024**, *A Vehement Flame* explores Massie and Burgess’s relationship, spanning from their first encounter to the heady days of their relationship. The

exhibition documents the emotional and physical vulnerability that rarified the couple's bond. At the core of the series are questions of codependency, **what defines a healthy relationship**, and the navigation of interpersonal trauma.

Massie and Burgess approach photography as an expression of love. The practice of photographing each other in tender, sensitive moments demonstrates the strength of their shared practice as it grew synonymous with the changing tides of their relationship, a voyeuristic example of love, passion, and sadness. By utilizing the spontaneity inherent to the medium, instant film proved a significant development to the authenticity of the duo's practice.

Inspired by artists such as Nan Goldin, Francesca Woodman, and Larry Clark, Massie and Burgess develop an attitude of young yet weathered romantics. Featuring photographs from various locations, the photographers explore how differing environments inform emotions and boundaries; the absence of sentimentality in their environment increases creativity, spontaneity, and raw emotions. Restrained by the one-and-done nature of polaroids, *A Vehement Flame* captures fleeting moments of the past in a permanent medium.



*God*, 2023, Polaroid film, 16 x 20 inches

Each of the fourteen enlarged polaroids previews Massie and Burgess' larger, ongoing series, which showcases passion and openness without judgment of the taboo. Snapshots of sex, love, loneliness, and trepidation are the vessel to communicate the darker sides of human nature. Burgess is a born and raised New Yorker, who started taking photos and keeping extensive diaries to chronicle her life from the early age of twelve onward. Massie moved to New York looking to develop his photographic practice of revealing the dark reality of life in seemingly glamorous industries such as music, fashion, and art.

*A Vehement Flame* will be on view from July 10 through August 28, 2024 at PALO Gallery, 21 E 3rd Street.

### **About the Artists**

**Lily Burgess** (b. 2003) is a photographer and mixed-media artist inspired by the human relationship with identity, nature, and the esoteric. Her work is primarily with polaroid film photography, digital photography, and collage of found objects and writings. The images show a troubled and misunderstood generation, one that is reflective of Lily's lived experience. She is able to reveal the truth or a lifestyle that is often fetishized by outsiders. The polaroids are marked with burns, scratches and other imprints. This cathartic process personalizes the work. Through these mediums she pulls from all aspects of perception, both the 2 and 3 dimensional- emphasizing the relation of people to their surroundings, and the energy that exists in their codependence.

**Lauren Massie** (b. 1996) is a self-taught photographer using black and white film techniques reminiscent of the no wave generation showing a darker, lonelier, perhaps more realistic interpretation of our current mental state, quite opposite of the common glamorized depiction of fashion, music and culture in New York City. His photographs are raw and can transport even the cool detached personas into a more serious and vulnerable space that aches with the common pain of being alive.

### **About PALO Gallery**

Established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, PALO Gallery brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic presentations. Extensive research by the PALO curatorial team ensures that each exhibition is advised by the art historical canon and contemporary cultural touchpoints. In 2022, PALO Gallery opened its new 3,400-square-foot flagship space designed by Selldorf Architects in the NoHo district of Manhattan is the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf. PALO Gallery's secondary space at 21 East 3rd Street, opening June 2024, will act as a destination of discovery for the gallery's multifaceted program that ranges from tightly curated, thematic group exhibitions to insightful art historically informed solo exhibitions spanning a breadth of artistic endeavors.

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