

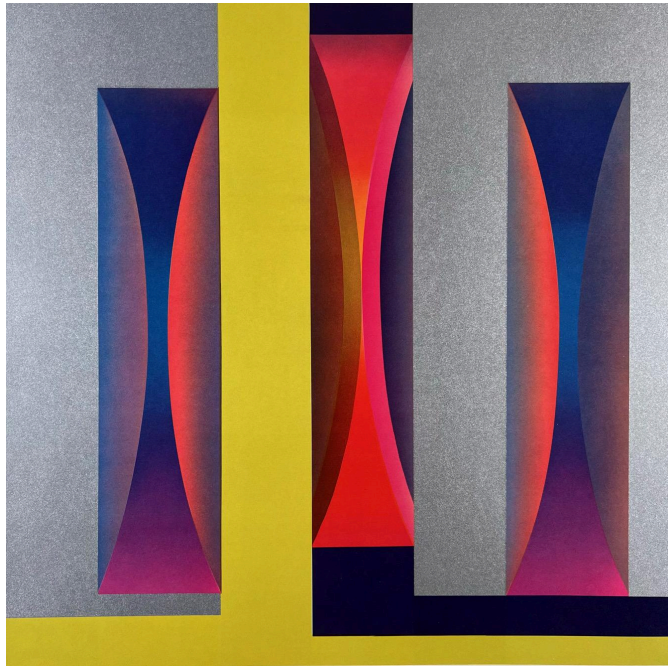
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**MORE FIRE GLASS STUDIO HOSTS SYL LABROT EXHIBITION**  
— *Screen Print Exhibition is a Fundraiser for Visual Studies Workshop* —



Untitled by Syl Labrot, courtesy of Visual Studies Workshop

Rochester, NY (August 6, 2024) More Fire Glass Studio announces *Syl Labrot, Synthetic Landscapes*, an exhibition of screen prints, presented in conjunction with Visual Studies Workshop (VSW). The exhibition will open September 19 and runs through December 19; prints will be available for sale and proceeds will benefit Visual Studies Workshop.

The works featured in *Syl Labrot, Synthetic Landscapes* were produced in the 1970s and are a culmination of Labrot's impressive skills as a painter, photographer, and printmaker. Grounded in the territory of landscape, but freely exploring the graphic 2-dimensional space of the page, these prints seamlessly integrate photographic elements with the luminosity of color field painting. The vintage prints are on view at More Fire Glass Studio and available for purchase.

Syl Labrot (1929–1977) was an acclaimed photographer, painter and printmaker. In 1976 Labrot published *Pleasure Beach*, a masterwork of color photography, graphic design and offset printing; it is considered among the most important photographer's books produced in the 1970s. Labrot worked primarily in color photography, mastering almost every early process of color printing, including the complex techniques of dye transfer and carbonyl printing. Focusing on silkscreen printing, he developed a screenless technique for color separations based on fine-line

transparencies which produced more nuanced detail than had previously been possible with photographic screen printing. In the 1970s he taught photography at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York where he fostered technique and creativity and is fondly remembered by alumni.

The vintage prints available for purchase are unsold portfolio prints produced in conjunction with Visual Studies Workshop for Syl Labrot's *Synthetic Landscape* portfolio in 1974.

"Visual Studies Workshop has been the life's work of my parents, Joan & Nathan Lyons, and at the center of our family history. As the institution enters a new chapter I wanted to support and also celebrate with this exhibition and print sale," shares **Elizabeth Lyons**, founder of More Fire Glass Studio. "Syl Labrot's work has resonated with me since I was a kid. I am still enamored with the vibrancy and luminosity of Syl's prints. It is these qualities that fuel my work in glass and it is rare to see that kind of play of color and light in two dimensional works. These prints are so beautiful, timeless, and easy to live with. I hope that the community will come out to support VSW and for this rare opportunity to enjoy the work of Syl Labrot."

### **Exhibition Details**

*Syl Labrot, Synthetic Landscapes*

Opening Night: Thursday September 19, 5-8pm

Exhibition: September 19 through December 19, 2024 / Open Tuesday- Saturday 10am - 4pm

Free and open to the public.

36 Field Street, at Monroe Avenue just off the 490 Exit. Parking is available.

### **About More Fire Glass Studio**

Celebrating 25 years in Rochester, More Fire Glass Studio is a small-scale production glass studio with a gallery and gift shop, serving the Rochester community and international clients including architects, interior designers, and retailers. More Fire Glass Studio was founded by Elizabeth Lyons in 1998. Elizabeth and her team continue to push boundaries as artists and designers. The studio and gallery are open to the public during regular business hours, and offer a thoughtfully curated selection of handcrafted pieces, special exhibitions and local events. [www.morefireglass.com](http://www.morefireglass.com)

### **Syl Labrot Biography**

Syl Labrot (1929–1977) was a photographer, painter and printmaker, born Sylvester Welch Labrot, III to a prosperous New Orleans family. He attended Yale University and the University of Colorado, Boulder, but dropped out before completing a degree in political science to pursue his newfound passion for photography.

Labrot quickly became a successful commercial color photographer, producing calendars, postcards, magazine covers and travel pictures, mostly in the Boulder and Colorado mountain areas. But as he wrote in a 1974 article for *Afterimage* "This game of counterfeit and stage sets wore out once success was achieved." He developed a more serious interest in photography as

an art form and was associated with a group of Colorado photographers that included Walter Chappell, Nile Root, Arnold Gasson, Winter Prather and Jim Milmoie.

*Under the Sun: The Abstract Art of Camera Vision 1* was published in 1960, with photographs by Labrot, Nathan Lyons and Walter Chappell. Labrot's statement in the book describes his changing relationship to image-making: "In my work I began to see that the camera could create a new space out of the relationship of visual reality to the graphic forces of the print....and this complete combining formed a distinct language..."

In 1976 Labrot published *Pleasure Beach*. This masterwork of color photography, graphic design and offset printing explores photography as abstraction, memory, and historical artifact. *Pleasure Beach* is divided into three parts, "The Invention of Color Photography," "Pleasure Beach," and "The Archeological Way," with Labrot's writings interspersed throughout the book.

Considered among the most important photographer's books produced in the 1970's, *Pleasure Beach* represents breakthroughs both in conception and production. Its design is symphonic, incorporating numerous themes and movements of color, layered images, and texts. It was printed under Labrot's supervision from screenless negatives he made which pushed far beyond the normal four color separation process, utilizing techniques he developed specifically for the offset production of this book.

Labrot worked primarily in color photography, mastering almost every early process of color printing, including the complex techniques of dye transfer and carbonyl printing. In the 1970s he taught photography at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York. Focusing on Silkscreen printing, he developed a screenless technique for color separations based on fine-line transparencies which produced more nuanced detail than had previously been possible with photographic screen printing. Moreover, this process required only an enlarger and some readily available graphic arts film and chemistry.

The prints from *Synthetic Landscapes*, produced in the 1970s, are a culmination of all of Labrot's impressive skills as a painter, photographer and printmaker. Grounded in the territory of landscape, but freely exploring the graphic 2-dimensional space of the page, these prints seamlessly integrate photographic elements with the luminosity of color field painting.

**About Visual Studies Workshop:** Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts, and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications and residencies. VSW was founded in 1969 in Rochester, NY by artist and curator Nathan Lyons (1930–2016), and became one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the country. More than 50 years later, the organization's mission is reflected in its core programs: VSW Salon screenings and exhibitions, Project Space Artist Residencies, and VSW Press. In support of VSW programs, the organization holds substantial photography and moving image research collections and an art library for artists, critics and the general public to explore, research and reuse. [vsw.org](http://vsw.org)

VSW programs are currently supported by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature, The National Endowment for the Arts, Joy of Giving Something, Monroe County NY, The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation, and all our members and individual supporters.

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