

staircase

148 Clement St
San Francisco, CA



PRESS
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DRAWINGS

Barbara Stauffacher Solomon

April 19 - May 19, 2024

Opening Reception
Friday, April 19, 2024
7-9 pm



Barbara Stauffacher Solomon,
staircase sketch, 2024.

San Francisco, CA. April 18, 2024 - staircase is pleased to present DRAWINGS, an exhibition of work by nonagenarian San Francisco Bay Area artist Barbara Stauffacher Solomon. There are the same number of stairs inside Solomon's house (to most known as Bobbie) as there are inside the staircase gallery. For this exhibition, Bobbie designed a coverage for the stairs, which leads the viewer to a suite of never-before-seen drawings from across Bobbie's eighty years of art making.

This exhibition is in collaboration with Gabriel Garza, artist, curator, and current caretaker of Barbara Stauffacher Solomon.

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Recently, I became Bobbie's live-in caretaker. To get up to her home, you must climb a steep set of stairs that leaves some winded and completely transported to the hive-mind of a stoic artist with a love for modernity and order. In order to stay, you must leave your outside realities at the door. One of the first things I asked her was if she wanted to draw.

She said no, that she only works when she has a project. I brought down her drafting table and tools from the inaccessible-to-her upstairs to her more immediate living area. Now, every morning, she asks me, “What are we working on today?” Projects have sustained her for ninety-five years, the life of a true working artist.

When Bobbie wakes up, she emerges from fantastical dreams filled with the past. She recounts her old home in the Marina, the greenery that used to grow in the house, family and friends, and project ideas. Figures of unknown origin appear, and animals act in storybook ways. Bobbie moves across cities and sees specific architectures, traveling, wandering, revisiting.

Bobbie recently asked for a reminder of what people say about seeing the past when you die, as in that your life flashes before your eyes. She told me she is slowly and surely experiencing something similar, the past appearing before her. In this way, she’s been seeing double, the past and present, and immersing herself in a visual world that becomes future work. Drawing to a Close.

– Gabriel Garza

She saw the staircase and laid it down,
made it red, flipped it around,
went to bed, got up instead.
Let’s make a copy, it’s ok if it’s sloppy,
Make it smoky, make it darker,
just remember, not to falter,
with your hand, when drawing the line,
afterward, we’ll have some wine.

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A special thank you to Katherine Ross Ward, Barbara’s daughter Nellie King Solomon, and dear friend Chris Grunder for their immense support.

About the Artist

Barbara Stauffacher Solomon (b.1928 in San Francisco) has worked as an artist, designer, and landscape architect across eight decades. Perhaps best known for her invention of Supergraphics, she has also shown her work widely and is represented in the permanent collections of MoMA, LACMA, The Walker Art Center, and many more.

About the Collaborator

Gabriel Garza (b.1995 in Los Angeles) is an artist and curator based in San Francisco. His longer term curatorial projects include Punto Lairs inc (Los Angeles), and in collaboration with Theadora Walsh, Thats A More (Oakland), and In Concert (SF). Upcoming curations include a suite of shows at Bass & Reiner (SF), Personal Space (Vallejo), Elbow Room (Portland, OR), Arts of Life (Chicago, IL), and Route 29 (Frenchtown, NJ). His solo show *Malaprop Pabulum* opens May 30th at [/\(Slash\)](#) as part of their [/room/](#) program.

About staircase

staircase is an experimental space from curious collaborators (Lindsay Albert + Ivana Colendich). The inaugural series is born out of the need for more alternative and affordable art spaces in the Bay Area. The project will showcase various art forms and host events centered around the visual arts. Established in 2023, based in San Francisco.

Address

staircase gallery
148 Clement St
San Francisco, CA 94118

Hours

Opening Reception
January 27, 2024, 7-9 pm
Saturday and Sunday open, 12-4 pm

Contact

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Connect

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