

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Mags Harries: *What She Carries***

October 5 – November 6, 2022

**SOWA First Friday Receptions**

October 7, 5 – 8:30pm

November 4, 5 – 8:30pm

**Artist's Talk**

Sunday, October 16, 3pm, reception to follow

**Artist Meet & Greet**

Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, October 22nd, 11 – 5pm

**Gallery Hours**

Wednesday – Sunday, 11 – 5pm

For Mags Harries, several political and environmental events coalesced to act as a catalyst for the work featured in *What She Carries*. In this new diverse body of sculpture, the artist takes on the war in Ukraine, political upheaval in the United States, and abortion law, as well as the global climate emergency.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, normal lives were upturned overnight. Harries was moved by the images of women carrying all of their essential belongings as they fled, leaving their homes with their children, not knowing where they were going, their husbands left behind to fight a war.

Harries addresses legacy of the Trump administration and the threat to democracy it has wrought, noting that “It takes one crazy man at a certain point in time to have generated such upheaval.” Part of that upheaval is the reversal of *Rowe v. Wade*, which hit Harries hard. As a young woman, she lived in Britain when abortion was illegal and recalls friends forced to undergo dangerous back-alley procedures. The reversal leaves the burden squarely on women.

While the environment is an ongoing theme for Harries, she feels “This work is more personal, less nuanced and more descriptive.” With soaring temperatures, drought, fires, flooding, and threats to agriculture, it is said that by 2050 forty percent of the earth’s population will become climate refugees.

In *What She Carries*, Harries poses the poignant question: Where will you go and what will you take?

Harries has exhibited locally, nationally and internationally. Best known for her public commissioned works, she constructs relationships with objects and materials to evoke new meaning. In her public art practice with Lajos Héder, many of the award-winning projects are based on water, and often reflect on environmental issues.

Mags Harries: *What She Carries* runs concurrently with Jeffu Warmouth: *Stamp Sketches & Stomp Boxes*.

Contact: # # #

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