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Striking a Light Courthouse Stone, 2018, cast paper, fabric, collaged poem fragments by Audrey Henderson. Photo by Stewart Clements

Julia Shepley: *Strata* May 8- June 9, 2019

Preview & Artist's Talk Wednesday May 8, 6-7:30 pm

**Opening Reception** Saturday, May 11, 3-6 pm

First Friday Reception
June 7, 6- 9 pm

Gallery Hours Wednesday - Sunday, 12-6pm

Strata, Julia Shepley's exhibition of new work, will be on view at Boston Sculptors Gallery May 8 to June 9, 2019. Featuring dimensional prints, cast paper reliefs and bamboo structures that are stitched, layered and collaged, Strata highlights Shepley's trademark process: the stratification of material, imagery and mark-making to give the illusion of depth and transience. Referencing architectural structures, natural environments, and paths of motion, Shepley's work conveys the lasting physical and emotional imprint of spaces left behind on our movements, habits and longings.

Striking a Light Courthouse Stone is one of a series of collaged cast paper and fabric pieces inspired by Shepley's sometime collaborator, poet Audrey Henderson. Henderson shared an image of the Courthouse in Edinburgh, Scotland, its stone façade engraved with layer upon layer of black match strikes. For Shepley, this carbon residue of "lighting a smoke," left by hundreds of individuals over decades, was evocative of all the lives currently hanging in the balance of the justice system. The black marks, etched on stone and translated into Shepley's work are random; yet through repetition and time coalesce into a seemingly choreographed drawing. All the works in *Strata* reflect a similar choreography of layered marks, material and imagery, as if mapping archeological remains of passage.

Shepley has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is held in public and private collections including The Rose Art Museum, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Fidelity Investments, Simmons University and Boston Public Library. She has been widely reviewed in publications such as The Boston Globe, Sculpture Magazine, ArtScope, and Art New England. Shepley studied at Hampshire College and Boston University, and is a member of the Boston Printmakers and the Textile Study Group in New York City. She lives in Brookline, MA and works at her studio in Somerville, MA.

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