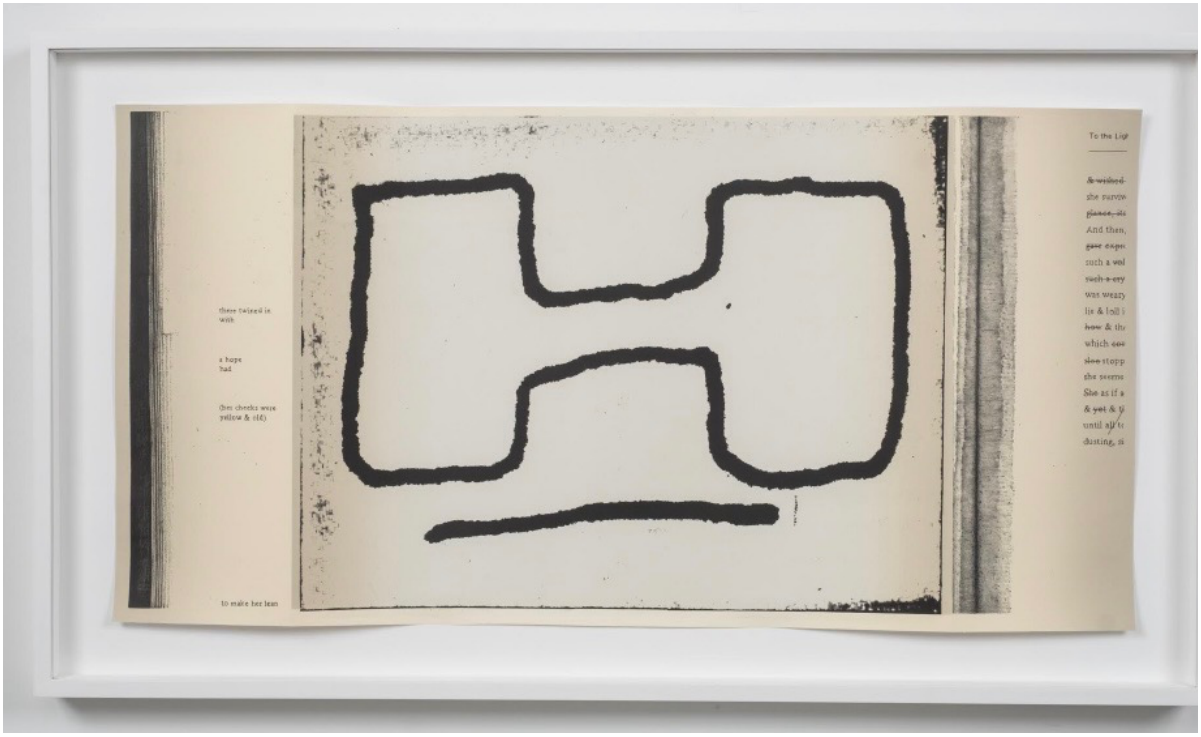
FORMERLY WAS



MOLLY SPRINGFIELD: *TWO BLOCKS JOINED BY A CORRIDOR*, A SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

September 20 – November 16, 2025

Formerly Was Gallery is pleased to present Molly Springfield: *Two Blocks Joined by a Corridor*, a solo exhibition, opening on September 20, 2025.

For the past twenty years, Molly Springfield has made drawings based on photocopies of printed texts. Springfield's projects are usually developed over a period of many years through in-depth research and painstaking manual labor. Through exploring the materiality of the photocopy—how ink and dust accumulate on a page when it's copied and re-copied, how lines smudge, the inky qualities of toner—her drawings explore how moments within the history of information and reproduction transform our experience of language.

One current project, *Holograph Draft*, considers the process of transcription and the development of modernism by drawing inspiration from a holograph draft of Virginia Woolf's novel *To the Lighthouse*. Published in 1927 and set in the preceding decade, *To the Lighthouse* explores loss, perception, and art at a moment when society was emerging from a global pandemic and political and social upheaval.

Springfield's installation at Formerly Was is an extension of this project and marks the artist's first foray into sculptural work. The exhibition's title, *Two Blocks Joined by a Corridor*, refers to a diagram Woolf drew in her notebook that describes the structure of *To the Lighthouse*. Woolf's diagram is the central image of Springfield's site-specific wall drawing. Split between the gallery's two walls, and separated by a sculptural piece, the wall drawing will also include a poetic text.

The exhibition will be open by appointment through November 16, 2025, and select Sundays between 4 to 6 pm. Please check gallery website and Instagram for updates and details.

Above Image: *Two blocks joined by a corridor*, Four-color Lithograph on white Somerset satin
15 x 30 inches, 2022



Molly Springfield working on her site specific installation inspired by a holograph draft of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* opening on September 20, 2025 at Formerly Was Gallery's project space in Washington, DC.

Molly Springfield is a Washington, DC-based artist best known for her graphite drawings that use photocopies of printed texts as their source material. She is a 2025 Guggenheim Fellow and was previously awarded a MacDowell Fellowship. Springfield's work is included in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and has been reviewed in Artforum,

Art Papers, Modern Painters, The New York Times, The New Yorker, Village Voice, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, and Chicago Tribune. Springfield has had fourteen national and international solo exhibitions. Past museum exhibitions include the Baltimore Museum of Art; Berkeley Art Museum; The Drawing Center, New York; and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. She received her MFA from the University of California, Berkeley. To see more of Springfield's work visit her website. https://mollyspringfield.com/home.html

Joumana Moukarim is the founding director of Formerly Was Gallery. Moukarim currently holds exhibitions very close to home, in her garage, which also functions as her studio. This has been an inspirational space, where artists have made site-specific work, including most recently, Mary Early: *Līnea XIII* (2024) and Lindsay McCulloch: *Weg Geschnissen* (2023). Moukarim has plans to hold both Fall and Spring projects in this alternative space with a performance piece coming up this Spring (2026).

Formerly Was Gallery first opened its doors in February 2017 in an old brutalist building in Bethesda, Maryland called Westwood Center II. The building was getting demolished, so rent was cheap and the lease short-term. Moukarim used the space as her studio and to show work by local artists. She called it Was Gallery and organized 14 well-received exhibitions in two years - more exhibitions than she ever expected! In September 2019, Was Gallery finally left the building. Soon after, Moukarim found a space in Tenleytown, Washington, DC, which she sublet for short periods from a frame shop, and re-branded as Formerly Was Gallery. She organized and curated several successful shows at that location including Maggie Michael and Caitlin Teal Price in *Adjacency is a Kind of Order: Pairing Painting and Photography* and E. Brady Robinson, Elena Volkova, Jill Fannon, Melvin Nesbitt Jr. and Rodney Choice in *Liminal Space*.

To learn more about the gallery and past exhibitions, please visit our website. www.formerlywas.com / Joumana Moukarim, MFA / 202.890.7786 / formerlywas@gmail.com