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LaunchPad

486 HARRISON AVENUE, BOSTON, MA 02118  
www.BostonSculptors.com 617.482.7781

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Christine Palamidessi: *Spirit Vessel***

April 4 – May 5, 2024

**First Fridays:** April 5 & May 3, 5 - 8:30pm

**Artist's Reception & Talk:**

Saturday, April 13, 2:30 - 5pm, Talk begins at 2:30pm

**Gallery Hours:** Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm

Christine Palamidessi's exhibition *Spirit Vessel* features archetypal figurative forms that have persisted over time in cultures all over the world. Palamidessi builds these iconic shapes using multiple layers of hardened Lecce paper, a traditional technique she learned in Italy from master mask makers and *cartapesta* artisans. The figures will resonate with the viewer as remnants of our common history revisited through the eyes of this prolific Boston artist.

Strongly influenced by archeological finds housed in museums and private collections, as well as in caves, Palamidessi's sculpture is also informed by her work as a yoga teacher and writer. Yoga references allude to alignment, chakras, and the notion of the soul pressing out onto the inside layer of our skin. Viewers can actually look inside many of the hollow pieces, sparking an appreciation for the sacred vessels that contains our spirits. As writer and visual artist, Palamidessi's narratives continue to celebrate art, myths, goddesses, saints and couples, warriors and virgins.

For the *Spirit Vessel* exhibition, Palamidessi also invited 12 cross-disciplinary guest artists, including a book designer, a sculptor, a printmaker and both abstract and landscape painters, creating small artifact figurines for each artist and enlisting their techniques to complete the work.

Christine Palamidessi, a full-time visual artist, lives in Cambridge; her studio is in Somerville. She has a degree in filmmaking and writing from University of Pittsburgh, has apprenticed with practicing artists and artisans, and earned a MA in Creative Writing from the esteemed Boston University Program, where she taught for 13 years. While teaching, she published three novels and works of non-fiction. Her art has been shown widely in the United States and in Europe and is held by collectors in France, Dominican Republic, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and here in the United States. Palamidessi has received numerous awards and artist residencies, most recently in 2022, as Visiting Artist at The American Academy in Rome.



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Contacts: Julia Shepley, BSG LaunchPad Gallery  
617.628.7623  
[bostonsculptors@gmail.com](mailto:bostonsculptors@gmail.com)  
[juliashepley@gmail.com](mailto:juliashepley@gmail.com)

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Christine Palamidessi  
[christine@palamidessi.com](mailto:christine@palamidessi.com)  
[palamidessi.com](http://palamidessi.com)  
IG: @palamidessi.art