

For Immediate Release

**OPENING** July 1, 2023 **5-7pm**

80 Railroad Street Great Barrington MA 01230

**HEROES** Joshua Abelow & Katya Kirilloff



I recall daydreamy long car rides from my youth as we went escaping the city riding along highways with the smoke of Gitanes and Chesterfield Kings floating to the ceiling before being sucked out a cracked window. There was little conversation other than eye-spy played en route but everything stopped when my mother would shout, "Can of worms, can of worms!" at which point I would stare out the window at the incomprehensible swarm of writhing urban planning, moving cars over curves and overpasses, up to bridges and around to other-sides and over-there.

It was this memory that flooded back to me while visiting the studios of Joshua Abelow and Katya Kirilloff in Harris, NY, where they shared their own "can of worms" story with me. Since then I've been ruminating, not without humor, how my visit was itself like a neural worm in my brain-can of other worms, unearthing memories for me from a deep storage while nourishing the mental whole. Worms maintain and promote the unknown, finding their place as alchemical churners of soil metaphoric and physical. We all have a worm story.

It is with great pleasure that RA presents our second exhibition and one that runs through the Summer:

**HEROES** Joshua Abelow & Katya Kirilloff, OPENING Saturday July 1, 5-7 pm

*In an age of ecological uncertainty, when natural habitats are disappearing and creatures like the giant Oregon earthworm are becoming extinct before they have even been properly identified, when farmland is being paved over in favor of neighborhoods and shopping centers, and farmers are turning to genetic engineering and biological pesticides to solve their agricultural problems, in this complex age, the earthworm may emerge as a kind of unsung hero, one whose potential we are only just beginning to understand.*

*"Civilizations could flourish," he wrote, "in regions where the soil," to use Darwin's words, "had passed thousands of times through the intestines of active earthworms." He went on to make what is perhaps the most surprising argument to date in favor of the accomplishments of earthworms: "Many members of the human community, instead of cultivating this land that had already been so well ploughed, were going to devote their time to the construction of buildings and to creating works of the mind."*

*Any environment, any single life is in a continuous state of change. This is just more obvious when you pay attention to earthworms. Their work may seem unspectacular at first. They don't chirp or sing, they don't gallop or soar, they don't hunt or make tools or write books. But they do something just as powerful: they consume, they transform, they change the earth.*

—*The Earth Moved*, Amy Stewart

**HEROES** - Joshua Abelow & Katya Kirilloff will run from July 1 - August 27, 2023

RA is a gallery and project space curated by artist Reed Anderson in collaboration with

Familiar Trees located at 80 Railroad street Great Barrington MA 01230

Open Thursday - Sunday 12-5 or by appointment - [www.reedandersonprojects.com](http://www.reedandersonprojects.com)