

Ptolemy

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Jonny Campolo

RED JAZZ SHOE SHINE

April 18–May 18, 2025

Opening Reception: April 18, 2025, 6:00–8:00 PM

Glendale, NY, 4/18/25: Shards of glass collaged and fused as carefree as colored paper scraps glued. Deep and compound concave cuts manageable only by a ring saw (if you know your stuff.) Glass rimmed with copper foil tape is soldered together (the Tiffany method.) Campolo's work runs down a list of hot and cold techniques like an index of methods and applications. Fitting for someone who teaches the trade in small informal classes. His work space oscillating between studio and class room. A timely endeavor for an artist as the cost of living rises and higher education sinks further into crisis.

With all of our institutions being called in for questioning, it seems a safe bet to be making art that can work from home. Much of Campolo's art moonlights as something functional or domestic. A night light, a mirror, a lamp shade (All shoes glass is most qualified to fill) filter and reflect light through lattices of lead free solder.

Despite the tedium of that much soldering the outcome is both joyful and light hearted. While many will question "how'd you make that?" few would ask "how long did that take?" The implication in that question is always that it doesn't look like much fun. And if there's one thing you can say about this work: it's fun.

Jeffrey Tranchell

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Jonny Campolo (b. 1987, NH) lives and works in New York. Recent performances include “Stop Club 57,” Museum of Modern Art, New York; “The Summit,” Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY; and “Send In The Clowns,” Freddy, Harris, NY. He has participated in exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles and Detroit, most recently with Halsey McKay, East Hampton, NY; Marvin Gardens, Queens, NY; Jeffs, Detroit, MI; Safe Gallery, East Hampton, NY and at NADA House on Governor’s Island, New York. His work is held in private and public collections including the Corning Museum of Glass, NY; the New York Public Library; Yale University Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, CT; Los Angeles Contemporary Archive; and Artforum International, NY.