

ANTON KERN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Displayed Curated by Matthew Higgs
July 2 – August 22, 2014
Opening reception July 2, 6pm–8pm

Tom Burr, Marc Camille Chaimowicz, Moyra Davey, Roe Ethridge, Rachel Harrison, Annette Kelm, David Kory, Shio Kusaka, Margaret Lee, Chris Martin, Simon Martin, Marina Pinsky, Carissa Rodriguez, Nancy Shaver, Diane Simpson, Josh Smith, Jonas Wood, B. Wurtz

Anton Kern Gallery is pleased to announce *Displayed* an exhibition curated by artist and White Columns' director Matthew Higgs.

Displayed is an exhibition of artworks that, in very different ways, explore the methodologies – both formal and psychological – of display and presentation. Borrowing from the languages of architecture, the museum, interior design, retail, and advertising among other disciplines, the works in *Displayed* variously consider our shifting relationships with – and attachments to – objects and the circumstances in which we encounter them: whether it be the gallery, the store, the street, the home, etc.



Central to *Displayed* is the mercurial practice of artist Nancy Shaver, whose antique store 'Henry' in Hudson, NY is an eccentric laboratory dedicated to nurturing a confusion between art and commerce, between the applied and fine arts, between good and bad taste. In *Displayed* Shaver juxtaposes her own sculptures – which often take the form of assisted ready-mades – with finds from estate sales and thrift stores establishing a fluid, albeit unstable taxonomy of objects. Elsewhere B. Wurtz creates low-fi armatures that privilege – even celebrate – the marginal and the maligned (a plastic shopping bag, a tube sock etc.). Josh Smith's 'Stage Painting' is essentially a jerry-rigged monument to himself. On the gallery's exterior walls, exposed to the elements, Chris Martin displays his paintings, where the gallery itself becomes a kind of pedestal, and Martin's paintings a form of 'advertising': alerting the passerby to the nature of the business conducted within. (A scenario echoed in Moyra Davey's early 1990s photographs of New York newsstands, with their informal grids and stacks of magazines and newspapers.) Rachel Harrison's ad-hoc telephone booth-like structure functions as if a vitrine, or container for its enclosed sculptural event. The museum vitrine, a device that both frames and protects, is self-consciously present in Annette Kelm's documentary accounts of feminist ephemera. Carissa Rodriguez's Ikebana display and Marc Camille Chaimowicz's faux floral bouquet each, in quite distinct ways, seek to apply order to nature.

In these and other works in *Displayed* the artist explicitly engages with, amplifies and disrupts the aesthetic – and psychological – possibilities inherent to the processes of selection, arrangement and presentation. (A process analogous to the role of the curator, the window dresser, or the art director, each of whom identifies, organizes and choreographs things in space). The artworks in *Displayed* self-reflexively explore these dynamics and tensions: where the distinction between *what* is presented and *how* it is presented is often moot.

Created by a intergenerational group of artists the works in *Displayed*, like the artists themselves, are willfully idiosyncratic, each made with specific intent, yet seen together these artworks are, I would suggest, representatives of a broad yet pervasive aesthetic tendency, an under-acknowledged 'movement' of sorts – "displayism" perhaps – that has shadowed the history of modernism (and what followed): its legacy evident in the practices of Marcel Broodthaers, Haim Steinbach, Guillaume Bijl, John Armleder, Isa Genzken, Barbara Bloom, Louise Lawler, and Carol Bove among many others.

– Matthew Higgs, June 2014

*Matthew Monahan's work *Hephaestus* will continue to be on view in the back gallery through August 22.

The exhibition will open on Wednesday, July 2nd and run through Friday, August 22, 2014. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10am - 6pm. For further information and images, please contact the gallery at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibitions: Brian Calvin (September 04 – October 04, 2014) Back Gallery: Lothar Hempel
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