

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SINCE LAST WE MET



13 NOVEMBER – 21 DECEMBER 2019
PRIVATE VIEW: TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 6–8PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY, NEW YORK

**ANNA BETBEZE | ELAINE CAMERON-WEIR | VERENA DENGLER | EKTOR GARCIA | MIKE KELLEY | ERIC N. MACK |
ROBERT MORRIS | ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG | MICHAEL E. SMITH**

Simon Lee Gallery, New York, is pleased to present *Since Last We Met*, an intergenerational group exhibition organized by Debra Singer in collaboration with Simon Lee Gallery.

Since Last We Met centers around an imagined set of metaphorical conversations among artists who experiment with notions of materiality. Blurring boundaries between painting and sculpture as well as between craft and fine art forms, artists from three generations are put in discussion with one another, as they transform found and commonplace objects into new works, alternatively reflecting uncanny sensibilities or an embrace of cultural or gendered embodied identities. With works dating from the 1970s to the present, the show reflects eclectic material sensibilities generated from production methods that are alternatively virtuosic and hand-crafted, on the one hand, or industrial and ad hoc, on the other. Among the artists on view are Anna Betbeze, Elaine Cameron-Weir, Verena Dengler, Ektor Garcia, Mike Kelley, Eric N. Mack, Robert Morris, Robert Rauschenberg, and Michael E. Smith.

From the vibrant sewn fabric collages of Eric N. Mack and the distressed flokati rugs of Anna Betbeze to the layered silkscreened textiles of Robert Rauschenberg, many of the artists interrogate conventions of Abstract Expressionist and Color Field painting through an embrace of unheralded materials, collage techniques, and more free-form, presentational modes. In analogous ways, Verena Dengler counter related Modernist traditions – accentuating references to craft and the decorative arts, creative activities historically relegated to women’s work and domesticity. Triangulating these dialogues are works by Elaine Cameron-Weir, Ektor Garcia, Robert Morris, and Michael E. Smith, all of whom construct surreal references to the body through sculptural forms. As a whole, the included works embrace a sense of intimacy, an appreciation for the previously marginalized, and often a common interest in utilizing found fabric, clothing, and textiles. When seen in relationship to one another, the works that comprise *Since Last We Met* also evoke the ongoing process in which each new generation pays homage to the past while simultaneously seeking to dismantle and extend our conceptions of the art historical canon.

NOTES TO EDITORS**About Simon Lee Gallery**

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery

www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Eric N. Mack, *Warrior*, 2016, Acrylic, dye, cardboard, Comme des Garçon tissue paper, and pistachio shells on pegboard, 243.8 x 121.9 cm (96 x 48 in.) Courtesy the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

For further press information, images and requests please contact Haniya Bhatti: haniya@simonleegallery.com / +44 (0) 207 491 0100.

Artist Bios:

Anna Betbeze was born in 1980 in Columbus, GA and lives and works in New York, NY. She received her BFA from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA in 2003 and her MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT in 2006. Recent solo exhibitions include *Accidental Pictures*, Nina Johnson, Miami, FL (2019); *Secrets*, Markus Lüttgen Gallery, Cologne, DE (2015); *Plush Vision*, Luxembourg & Dayan, London, UK (2015); *Wormholes*, François Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2012); and *Anna Betbeze: New Work*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (2012). Selected group exhibitions include *Bitter Water*, DREI, Cologne, DE (2016); *War Games*, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY (2015); *Splitting Light*, University of Buffalo Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2015); *Decorum*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR (2013); *Interiors*, Modern Collections, London, UK (2013).

Elaine Cameron-Weir was born in 1985 in Alberta, Canada and lives and works in New York, NY. Recent solo exhibitions include *strings that show the wind*, JTT, New York, NY (2019); *Outlooks: Elaine Cameron-Weir*, Storm King Art Center, New York, NY (2018); *ELAINE CAMERON-WEIR: exhibit from a dripping personal collection*, Dortmund Kunstverein, Dortmund, DE (2018); *Elaine Cameron-Weir: viscera has questions about itself*, New Museum, New York, NY (2017); *Erotix*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY (2016); and *snake with sexual interest in own tail*, Venus Over Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (2016). Selected group exhibitions include *Terres de Femmes*, Praz-Delavallade, Paris, FR (2018); *Trip of the Tongue*, Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong, CN (2017); *Le Grand Balcon*, La Biennale de Montreal, Montreal, Canada (2016); and *More than Lovers, More than Friends*, a curated project by Jo-ey Tang, FUTURA, Prague, Czech Republic (2016).

Verena Dengler was born in 1981 in Vienna, AT and lives and works in Vienna, AT. Recent solo exhibitions include *Malerei*, STRABAG Kunstforum, Vienna, AT (2019); *Verena Dengler. Jackie of All Trades & Her Radical Chic Academy with (((HC Playner)))*, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, CH (2017); *Radical Chic Academy*, Zabriskie Point, Geneva, CH (2016); and *Dengled Up in Blue*, Galerie Meyer Kainer, Vienna (2014). Her work resides in the collections of mumok, Museum of Modern Art Foundation Ludwig, Vienna, AT; MAK, Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art, Vienna, AT; Lentos, Kunstmuseum Linz, AT; Sammlung Museum der Moderne – Rupertinum, Salzburg, AT; and Museion, Bolzano, IT.

ektor garcia was born in 1985 in Red Bluff, CA and lives and works in Oaxaca, Mexico. He received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014, and his MFA from Columbia University, New York in 2016. Recent solo exhibitions include *Cadena Perpetua*, Sculpture Center, Long Island City, Queens, NY (2019); *sangre y barro*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada (2019); *deshacer*, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK (2018); *6 ½ Weeks*, Museum Folkwang, Essen, DE (2018); *cochi*, Visitor Welcome Center, Los Angeles, CA (2017); *lleno y vacío*, Salon ACME, Mexico City, MX (2017); and *kriziz*, Kurimanzutto, Mexico City, Mexico (2016).

Mike Kelley was born in 1954 in Detroit, MI and died in 2012 in Los Angeles, CA. He received his BA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI in 1976 and his MFA in 1978 from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA. Major recent solo exhibitions include Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA (2014); MoMA PS1, New York, NY (2013); Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR (2013); *Mobile Homestead*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI (2013); *Mike Kelley: Themes and Variations from 35 Years*, The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2012); *Educational Complex Onwards: 1995-2008*, curated by Anne Pontégnie, Wiels, Brussels, BE (2008); and *Mike Kelley: Profounders vertes*, Musée du Louvre, Paris, FR (2006).

Eric N. Mack was born in 1987 in Columbia, Maryland and lives and works in New York, NY. He received his BFA from The Cooper Union, New York, NY and his MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT. In 2019, Mack presented work at the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Modern Art, New York, and opened his first solo show at the Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY titled *Lemme walk across the room*. Other institutional solo exhibitions include the *BALTIC Artists' Award 2017*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2017) and *Eric Mack: Vogue Fabrics*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2017). Major group exhibitions include *Ungestalt*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2017); *In the Abstract*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Massachusetts, MA (2017); *Blue Black*, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St Louis, MO (2017); *Making & Unmaking: An exhibition curated by Duro Olowu*, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK (2016) and *Greater New York 2015*, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY (2015).

Robert Morris was born in 1931 in Kansas City, MO and died in 2018 in Kingston, NY. Morris was the subject of numerous institutional exhibitions, including at Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, Trento, IT (2016); Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC (2012); Tate Modern, Turbine Hall, London, UK (2009); Museum Ludwig, Cologne, DE (2002); Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK (1997); Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR (1995); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (1994); Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC (1990); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (1986); The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (1980); and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, NY (1970).

Robert Rauschenberg was born in 1925 in Port Arthur, TX and died in 2008 in Captiva Island, FL. Major recent solo exhibitions include *Rauschenberg: The 1/4 Mile*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *Robert Rauschenberg: A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA (2017); *Robert Rauschenberg: Among Friends*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2017); *Robert Rauschenberg*, Tate Modern, London, UK (2016); *Robert Rauschenberg in China*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, CN (2016); *Selections: Robert Rauschenberg*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA (2015); *Robert Rauschenberg: Four Decades of Work on Paper*, Cole Art Center, College of Fine Arts, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (2013); *Robert Rauschenberg and 9 Evenings: Theatre and Engineering*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, DE (2012); and *Rauschenberg: Synapsis Shuffle*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2012).

Michael E. Smith was born in 1977 in Detroit, MI and lives and works in Providence, RI. He received his BFA from Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI in 2006 and an MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT in 2008. Recent solo exhibitions include Stuart Shave Modern Art, London, UK (2019); Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland, CH (2018); MSU Broad, East Lansing, MI (2018); MoMA PS1, New York, NY (2017); S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE (2017); KOW, Berlin, Germany (2017); Kunstverein Hannover, Hanover, DE (2015); Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY (2015); Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK (2014); Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Detroit, MI (2014); Power Station, Dallas, TX (2014); and CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, FR (2013).