

Harris Lieberman

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Viva la Raspberries

Joan Brown, Roy Dowell, Evan Holloway, David Hughes, Rebecca Morris, Ron Nagle, Matt Paweski, Suzan Pitt, and Linda Stark

Organized in collaboration with Evan Holloway

June 28 – August 17, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday June 28, 6 – 8 pm

Harris Lieberman is pleased to announce *Viva la Raspberries*, a group exhibition organized in collaboration with Evan Holloway. In the middle of Andy Warhol's *The Loves of Ondine* (1967), the film abruptly switches to color. A man rides into a kitchen on a bicycle, stark naked. A group of young Latin American men calling themselves "The Bananas" showers him with everything they find in the cabinets, refrigerator, and garbage. The B-side of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" loops in the background. One of the young men shouts repeatedly, "Viva la raspberries." It seems nearly certain that at least one of the men is under the influence of LSD.

Inspired by Warhol's film, *Viva la Raspberries* is organized around Suzan Pitt's 1979 movie *Asparagus*. Its loose, narrative mix of abstraction, the human, and the vegetable is representative of a modernism native to the West Coast. The surreal and psychedelic introspection displays its labor as an ambitious experiment in the limits of communication.

Joan Brown's portraits from the same period reveal an autobiographical narrative that often invokes her peers in the Bay Area Figurative Movement. Working in Los Angeles now, Rebecca Morris and Linda Stark's textural paintings reinterpret the conventions of modernism, but with different referents: Linda's "Adorned paintings" mimic flesh and decoration, while Rebecca's work draws on influences from architecture and ceramics.

A major figure of West Coast abstract ceramics, Ron Nagle has plumbed the medium for more than 50 years, creating variously amorphous and biological forms. Similarly disrupting the divide between functionality and art, Matt Paweski's wall-mounted sculptures use the craft of furniture making to create a familiar and intimate aesthetic.

Roy Dowell's recent work culls elements of popular and world cultures for abstract, quasi-functional sculptures that evoke the organic and the ritual. Evan Holloway's casts of modified branches attempt to reconfigure what was once organic. A poem hovers above David Hughes's homemade pair of scissors that wears a yellow bikini and lays on a drawing of a beach towel. Surreal and anthropomorphic, the scene echoes Pitt's *Asparagus*.

Harris Lieberman is located at 508 West 26th Street, on the ground floor. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. Beginning Monday July 2nd, the gallery will be open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm. For further information please contact the gallery by phone at 212.206.1290 or by email at gallery@harrislieberman.com.