

Marianne Boesky Gallery Presents *The Hollow*, a Solo Exhibition by Donald Moffett

On View November 27, 2020 – January 18, 2021



Aspen, CO (November 11, 2020) - Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to present *The Hollow*, a solo exhibition of new works by Donald Moffett. The exhibition marks his ninth solo show with the gallery and will be on view November 27, 2020 – January 18, 2021 at the gallery's space in Aspen, Colorado.

The Hollow continues the artist's interest in minimalist, abstract forms that simultaneously carry personal and metaphorical meaning. As art historian Kate Nesin recently wrote, "Moffett tends to work in series, and often in rhythmic alternation, oscillating not only between formal positions but also between conceptual modes, micro- and macro- points of view—considerations of the particular body...and of the body politic."¹ The works on view in the exhibition include a grouping of Moffett's extruded and resin techniques from the glory hole series. In his extruded paintings, the artist methodically extends individual tendrils of oil paint to stand perpendicular to the canvas, creating a bristling three-dimensional surface. In contrast, Moffett's resin works on view achieve a luminous appearance by pouring pigmented resin on the painting's surface. The structural planes of these works are disrupted with circular and organically shaped cutouts that the artist drills through the paintings. The resulting works, through the thick application of paint and resin, border between painting and three-dimensional object.

Moffett subverts traditional notions of painting and abstraction, employing innovative technique and methodology to disrupt the surface in his process of extruding paint, resin-pouring, and routing his monochromatic works. Throughout Moffett's practice, this diversity and complication of technique presents itself in numerous forms, including works that feature projected light or film on canvas, or the hand-sewn holes and zippers seen in his *Fleisch* works. The line, however, between figuration and abstraction is further blurred in the glory hole works by way of the artist's likening of the canvas to the body and nature and sex. The subtle coding of the painting's orifice-like holes and lush textures splits across multiple concerns: formal, metaphorical, structural.

Donald Moffett notes: "I regard this fact: the size and shape of a hollow depends on the age of the tree."

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

NEW YORK | ASPEN

New York-based artist Donald Moffett (b. 1955) emerged as both an artist and activist in the late 1980s, participating in the ACT UP movement and as a founding member of the collective Gran Fury. Moffett challenges the traditional flat frame through non-traditional painting techniques, employing a private language of form that serves as a carrier for both personal and political meaning. Moffett often treats the canvas as a surrogate for the body, creating orifices by cutting and flaying or perforating the canvas. The resulting compositions are provocative and poetic, hinting at pleasure and playfulness, all the while serving as an implicit form of social critique.

About Marianne Boesky Gallery

Since its inception in 1996, Marianne Boesky Gallery has represented and supported the work of emerging and established contemporary international artists of all media. In its first decade, the gallery was instrumental in launching the careers of major artists through an innovative exhibition program; and in 2016, the gallery expanded its flagship location to its adjacent space on West 24th Street. Now, the gallery continues to actively represent many significant artists such as Ghada Amer, Donald Moffett, Sanford Biggers and Frank Stella, among others.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the gallery will be transitioning its 509 layout in Chelsea into four gallery spaces to allow for regularly rotating presentations that can be experienced in a more intimate and semiprivate manner. The 507 gallery footprint will continue to host ambitious solo and group shows open to the public that will highlight the dynamic narratives and parallels across artist, media, and theme. Boesky West, opened in 2017 in Aspen, CO will also continue its rotating exhibition program showing both gallery artists and artists invited to present special projects. These recent changes highlight the gallery's ongoing experimentation with space and architecture as well as its continued commitment to the health and safety of its dynamic roster of artists and dedicated audience from around the globe.

Image: Donald Moffett, *Lot 101220 (open orange)*, 2020. Urethane paint, UV clear coat, wood panel, steel. 12 x 6 5/8 x 5 3/4 in. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen. ©Donald Moffett

1 Kate Nesin, "The Body of the Work," in *Fleisch: Donald Moffett*, © 2020 Marianne Boesky Gallery, Essay © 2020 Kate Nesin.

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