

Herald St

Say Less

Curated by William Pym

6th April - 7th May 2022

Say Less is an essay exhibition. It is an idea on a topic in visual form. It is a small view from our big world, a passionate and true view, but not something comprehensive. It is a group show of eleven artists from around Europe and the United States, represented by work from 1969 to 2022.

Say Less, the essay exhibition, unfolds as an essay, in chapters. Photography turns into collage, montage and graft. From there we find craft. It is a journey in process, practice and a certain clear honesty of expression.

'Say less' is a millennial neologism that, like all good slang, bears opposite meanings. It is a conspiratorial, loving hurrying of 'say no more,' like the listener is already on board and with it. It is also chippy condescension in the name of concision, like the listener is already bored.

Say Less, this exhibition, aims to reflect both sides of the saying. It is emphatic about the power of images and objects to require fewer words, and it addresses the exhaustion we have about the volume of words already in the world today. It is designed to be self-evident, and for peace to be found there.

Simon Evans™
Paul Graham
Chris Killip
Justine Kurland
Hanna and Klara Lidén
Ari Marcopoulos
Joan Nelson
Philadelphia Wireman
Celia Pym
Anthony Reynolds

British social realism from the 1960s to the 1980s, at its poetic and formal maximum, is represented by vintage prints from Paul Graham's seminal *A1 - The Great North Road* series (1983); important prints from the early 1980s by Chris Killip; and a suite of snapshots, a young man's eye in a packed neighbourhood pub in Newcastle in 1969, by Anthony Reynolds. Reynolds has been a gallerist and art dealer in London since 1985. This is the first time his art has been shown.

From there, and then, photography mutates. Ari Marcopoulos has been documenting New York and the world, day by day and year by year, for more than four decades. The three diptych prints in this exhibition come out of a prodigious period of small-run zines and combination images that Marcopoulos made for the people close to him in 2020-2021; rhythm, sequence and echoes tell of a total life practice. Justine Kurland's recent *SCUMB* works, collages that disembowel and reconfigure photobooks of the male canon, will be shown for the first time in London with a new series made from Lee Friedlander's prurient 1991 monograph *Nudes*.

Kurland's physicality recalls Klara and Hanna Lidén's 2007 video *Techno Battle*, a lesser-shown loonie of riot and mischief-making. Materiality comes to the fore with the wrought miniature sculptures understood to be made in the 1970s by the anonymous Philadelphia Wireman; a heavily accreted new collage by Simon Evans™ vividly depicting a time and a place, and a moment without beginning or end; and the knit work of Celia Pym, in sculpture that is technical, conceptual and entirely to do with the big picture of what we keep.

With three landscapes by American painter Joan Nelson from 2011, the only paintings in the exhibition, our view disintegrates into pure atmosphere and communion, revealing the journey's end and the ultimate yield if we choose to say less.

Text by William Pym

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Simon Evans™ (Simon Evans b. 1972, London; lives and works in New York; Sarah Lannan b. 1984, Phoenix; lives and works in New York) has had solo shows at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland; and the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (MUDAM), Luxembourg. Simon Evans™ was also featured in the 12th International Istanbul Biennial (2011) and the 27th São Paulo Biennial (2006).

Paul Graham (b. 1956, Stafford; lives and works in New York) has had solo shows at Les Rencontres d'Arles, France; Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; and MoMA PS1, New York. He won the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2009, and the Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards prize for the best photographic book of the past fifteen years in 2011.

In 1989, **Chris Killip** (b. 1946, Douglas; d. 2020) received the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award, and in 1991 he was invited to be a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University, where he would end up working until 2017. His work has been exhibited in solo shows at Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles; the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; and Tate Britain, London.

The work of **Justine Kurland** (b. 1969, Warsaw; lives and works in New York) has previously been exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Kurland's *SCUMB Manifesto* was first exhibited in March 2021 at Higher Pictures Generation, New York and is currently collected in a new publication by MACK Books.

Klara Lidén (b. 1979, Stockholm; lives and works in Berlin) has had solo shows of her work at Moderna Museet, Stockholm; the New Museum, New York; and the Serpentine Gallery, London. The work of **Hanna Lidén** (b. 1976, Stockholm; lives and works in New York) has been shown at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; and the Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains, Lausanne.

Ari Marcopoulos (b. 1957, Amsterdam; lives and works in New York) has a forthcoming solo exhibition at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen opening in May 2022 and new monographs with Aperture and JRP Ringier. He has been the subject of solo shows at MoMA PS1, New York, and the Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam, and was selected for the 2002 and 2010 Whitney Biennials.

The work of **Joan Nelson** (b. 1958, El Segundo; lives and works in New York) has been shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

The work of **Philadelphia Wireman** (discovered 1982, Philadelphia) has been shown at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; and the American Folk Art Museum, New York.

The work of **Celia Pym** (b. 1978, London; lives and works in London) has previously been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and Dundee, and the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco. In 2021, Pym was included in shows at the Design Museum and the Wellcome Collection, London, and collaborated on the Artisanal collection with Maison Margiela. She will present recent work in an exhibition at the University of Hertfordshire opening in October 2022.

Anthony Reynolds (b. 1950, London; lives and works in London) opened his eponymous London gallery in 1985. The hundreds of artists exhibited — from Isa Genzken to Mike Kelley, Bruce Nauman to Mark Wallinger, Sturtevant to Cindy Sherman — defined discourse at the turn of the twenty-first century. The images in this exhibition come from the first round of archiving for Reynolds' over twenty years of personal photographic work.