

Anton Kern Gallery

David Shrigley & Tal R *The Notebook*

January 11 – February 17, 2024
Opening Reception: Thursday, January 11
from 6 – 8pm

Anton Kern Gallery is pleased to announce *The Notebook*, David Shrigley and Tal R's first two-person exhibition together. Occupying the first and second floor galleries, the artist duo presents a combination of close to 100 new unique works on paper, which developed from their conversations and artwork exchanges over the past six months. The drawings in *The Notebook* exhibition are collaborations in spirit, and bear witness to their mutual admiration and longtime friendship. The idea for this exhibition arose from a collaborative sketchbook that the artists began working on in the mid-2000s. In Shrigley's words:

I first met Tal about 20 years ago in Copenhagen. At the time we were both showing at the same gallery there. Even though he was quite well known I wasn't that familiar with his work but when I started to look at it I quickly grew to love it. He gave me a book of drawings done in biro that I still think is wonderful. He is able to tell stories using just pictures which is something that I can't do very well. He is also a master of color in his paintings which I am not: I think my favorite artists are those that can do things that I can't. We have both also worked with the same printmaker around the corner from Tal's studio on Nansensgade in Copenhagen (Michael Schaefer). As a result of this we have seen quite a lot of each other over the years.

In 2005 we started a sketchbook together. We passed it back and forth and made collaborative drawings. When we finished it we started another one. I think the sketchbooks remained in Tal's studio for a few years. Then they lived in mine for a few years. Recently we remembered them and looked at them again. We are hoping to publish them somehow. When Tal needed a new gallery in New York he asked about Anton Kern who he thought would be a good fit. I agreed. I guess I did a bit of 'matchmaking' and here we are. The works for this show were intended to be a sort of conversation between us; each responding to the other's work. The result, I guess, is the latest of many conversations we have had.

Within the exhibition - their latest collaboration - each drawing is executed by the hand of one artist: either David or Tal. The distinctive sequencing of works throughout the galleries allows the viewer to forgo their attachment to each artist's particular language and consider the surprising connections that result from underlying formal and narrative elements.



Pictured: David Shrigley, *Untitled (Impossible To Tell What He Has In His Hand)*, 2023, Acrylic on paper, 29 1/2 x 22 1/8 inches (75 x 56 cm); Tal R, *Drawing Lobster*, 2023, Crayon and ink on colored paper, 26 3/8 x 19 1/4 inches (67 x 49 cm)

David Shrigley (b. 1968 in Macclesfield, UK) is a conceptual artist whose work takes an endless variation of forms, including: drawings, sculptures, animations, photographs, prints, books, and many things in-between. He studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1988 – 1991 and currently lives and works in Devon, UK.

Shrigley's work has been the subject of institutional exhibition around the world, including the major survey exhibition LOSE YOUR MIND, supported by the British Council, which has traveled to the Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China (2018); Art Tower Mito, Japan; CoCA, Christchurch, New Zealand (both 2017); Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Quinta Normal, Santiago, Chile (2016); and Hospicio Cabañas, Guadalajara, Mexico (2015). In addition, Shrigley has participated in public art commissions, including the prestigious Fourth Plinth Commission in Trafalgar Square, London (2016); at the Doris C. Freedman Plaza in Central Park, New York (2016 - 2017); and in the Fields Sculpture Park at Art OMI, Ghent, New York (2018 - present). Currently, the artist's iconic 'Really Good' bronze sculpture is on view as part of the Triennial at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. His popular interactive installation 'Tennis Ball Exchange' will travel to Melbourne as well, for Triennial EXTRA, open from January 19–28, 2024.

Danish artist Tal R (Tel Aviv, 1967) lives and works in Copenhagen. He attended Billedskolen, Copenhagen (1986–1988) and graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen (2000). He was Professor at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf (2005–2014). His work is included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; Berlinische Galerie Museum of Modern Art, Berlin; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk; Magasin III, Stockholm; Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Statens Museum for Kunst (SMK), Copenhagen; among others.

Tal R has recently presented solo exhibitions at the Malmö Art Museum, Malmö, Sweden (2023); Kunsten, Aalborg, Denmark; Artipelag, Gustavsberg, Sweden (both 2022); Ordupgaard, Charlottenlund, Denmark (2021); Glyptoteket, Copenhagen, Denmark; Magasin III, Stockholm, Sweden (both 2020); Hastings Contemporary, UK (2019); Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (2018); Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Netherlands (both 2017); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany (2013); and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany (2012). Currently, a duo exhibition of Tal R and Mamma Andersson's work is on view at the Museum MORE in the Netherlands.