

Mary Mary

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Sara Barker & Barbara Kasten

Mary Mary at 10 Northington Street

11 October - 23 November 2013

Mary Mary is delighted to announce Mary Mary at 10 Northington Street, a gallery exhibition in London of Glasgow based Sara Barker and Chicago based Barbara Kasten opening on 10 October. 10 Northington Street is Laura Bartlett Gallery, London's second gallery space and this show is the first in a series of projects and gallery invitations that will take place there.

Running concurrently to her solo show at the Glasgow gallery, **Sara Barker** has produced for this London presentation, complex and delicate brazed and welded wall based assemblages combining painted aluminium, steel and brass. Unlike previous works, these pieces have been made with the site itself very much in mind, using corners and particular views as the pieces' starting points.

Barker's frame of reference often draws from language and literature through a process that gives material and meaning equality. Developing from numerous texts such as Bruno Munari's 'Design as Art' and the work of Doris Lessing and May Sarton, descriptions and extracts lend themselves to titles, suggest colour and influence shape and form. Recently texts describing organic processes such as the conditions that effect plant growth, branches and leaves have been referenced, mirroring an organic process of making and an increasingly interlocking and over-lapping body of forms.

Barker works in a way that sees pieces 'grow' out of themselves as if branches of a tree, with each section aiding the development of the next and attempts to find unexpected qualities in materials, and a lightness in making that refutes the idea of sculpture as always solid, dense and volumetric. Increasingly the work has focused more specifically on the painted surface, with larger areas of brightly painted sections amongst the welded brass forms.

Alongside Sara Barker, Mary Mary is delighted to be showing a selection works by **Barbara Kasten**, including recent pieces as well as works from her Construct series from the 1980s. Since the 1970s, Barbara Kasten has been making abstract images which promote a cross-disciplinary approach to image-making, dealing with sculpture, painting and installation within the photographic medium. For Kasten, these works do not primarily focus on photography but equally on an innovation in painting and sculpture, which see her build abstract installations made from mirrors, paper, fabrics and metal sheets. These are then photographed, with the final images depicting a sort of 'stage,' which is always abstract and non-narrative.

Through this process, Kasten presents us with a complex and fascinating portrait of the photographic image. By adopting a representing medium such as photography and using it to distort a subject, Kasten has shifted something which normally purely documents into a transformative tool. In doing so, the camera manages to capture a working moment, a gathering of material and imagery and a study in working with light and colour. Indeed, in the more recent Studio Construct series, the camera has captured tiny scratches in Plexi-glass, small rips and tears in paper which are magnified to epic proportions through the camera and Kasten's composition.

Influenced by the Californian Light and Space Movement of the 1960s and 70s and artists such as James Turrell, Robert Irwin and Agnes Martin, Kasten's work also finds its origins in Minimalism and Constructivism. Whilst she has also talked of her interest in Kandinsky's writings on the emotional affects of colour, we can also see links to Lázló Moholy-Nagy and the work of Man Ray. In turn, she has influenced many of the current generation of artists working in photography such as Eileen Quinlan and Liz Deschenes amongst many others, with a practice which was far ahead of its time and which continues to resonate today.

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Born in 1980 in Manchester, Barker lives and works in Glasgow. Recent exhibitions include *The Best is Yet to Come*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2013); *Drawing:Sculpture*, Leeds City Art Gallery & The Drawing Room, London; *The Geometry of Things*, GAK Bremen; *New Order: British Art Today*, Saatchi Gallery, London; *Woman at a Window*, Modern Art / Stuart Shave, London; *Tracing the Century*, Tate Liverpool; *A House of Leaves*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London (all 2012). Forthcoming projects include a sculptural commission at Baltic, Gateshead (2013) and solos at Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2014); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2015) and The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (2016).

Born in 1936, Barbara Kasten lives and works in Chicago. Recent solo exhibitions include *Kunstverein Nürnberg* (2012); *Galerie Kadel Willborn*, Karlsruhe (2011 & 2013); *Almine Rech Gallery*, Paris (2010). Group exhibitions include 'A Democracy of Images: Photographs from the Smithsonian American Art Museum,' Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington (2013) 'Experimental Photography from the 70s,' Gallery Luisotti, Santa Monica; *Friedrich Petzel Gallery*, New York (both 2011); 'Starburst: The History of Color Photography in the 1970S,' Cincinnati Museum of Art, Ohio (2010). She will have a solo show at Mary Mary, Glasgow opening in November 2013 and a solo at ICA Philadelphia in September 2014.