

**Robin Rhode**

***Borne Frieze***

**June 25-August 21, 2015**

**536 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street**

#bornefrieze



Installation view of *Robin Rhode: The Sudden Walk* (Kulturhuset Stadsteatern, Stockholm, February 14-May 3, 2015). Detail: *Light Giver Light Taker*, 2015, black lightbulb: polyurethane foam, charcoal; white lightbulb: polyurethane foam, chalk. 2 parts, each: 41.73 (height) x 25.2 (diameter) inches, 106 x 64 cm. Courtesy Rhodeworks and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, June 15—**Lehmann Maupin** is pleased to present **Robin Rhode's** third solo exhibition with the gallery, *Borne Frieze*, on view at 536 West 22nd Street from June 25-August 21, 2015. This exhibition will showcase several new works that explore and reinforce the central importance of drawing to Rhode's multi-faceted artistic practice. **The artist will be present for an opening reception on June 25, from 6-8PM.**

Inspired by his South African heritage, Rhode titled the exhibition *Borne Frieze*, an adaptation of the commonly used phrase "Born Frees," a moniker given to the generation born after the end of Apartheid in 1994. Rhode, who came of age during this period, often investigates the contrast between old ideals and new desires and imbues his works with a sense of freedom and change that is evocative of this time. Building on the artist's frequent use of visual and verbal puns, *Borne Frieze* creates a bridge between the political heritage of his home country and the energy, spontaneity, and ephemerality of his artistic

practice, which has long included the wall drawing as a key form. By bringing an object, idea, or action forth (borne) to a medium central to Rhode's practice such as the wall (frieze), the artist evokes the improvisational and vibrant nature of his work.

Despite his range of visual approaches, Rhode views drawing as a fundamental aspect of his practice and of all art making. The basic elements of drawing such as immediacy, gesture, economy of means, and rhythm are consistently reflected in all of his work and form the core of this exhibition. Several new works that embody Rhode's cross-disciplinary vision incorporate sculptural elements as tools to create drawings. In *Light Giver Light Taker* and *Chalk Bike*, Rhode expands the idea of what can be used as a drawing instrument by utilizing unconventional objects to make marks, here in sweeping, performative gestures, on the gallery's walls and floor. Whether a life-size bicycle in *Chalk Bike* or larger-than-life chalk and charcoal light bulbs in *Light Giver Light Taker*, Rhode believes that using such tools equates to a form of animism, or imbuing such inanimate objects with a soul. Rhode "activates" these objects to create his drawings, and they remain in the gallery as a monument to the actions performed. Rhode's drawings, like his performances and other actions, are ephemeral and these traces left behind are not meant to be permanent.

In addition to his Lehmann Maupin exhibition, Rhode will present *Drawing Waves* at The Drawing Center in New York from July 17 through August 30, 2015.

### **About the Artist**

Robin Rhode (b. 1976, Cape Town, South Africa) was raised in Johannesburg. His first major museum solo show was at Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany in 2007, and Rhode has since had major solo exhibitions at a number of museums around the world including the Hayward Gallery, London (2008); the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2009); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2010); the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2013); and the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York (2014). He has participated in notable group exhibitions including *New Photography*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2005); the 51st Venice Biennale (2005); *Staging Action: Performance in Photography Since 1960*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011); and the 2012 Sydney Biennale. His work is included in numerous public collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Castello di Rivoli, Turin; Centre Pompidou, Paris; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. The artist lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

### **About Lehmann Maupin**

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

### **Current and Upcoming Exhibitions**

Patrick Van Caeckenbergh, June 23-August 21, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street  
[Nocturnal Friendships](#), curated by Liu Wei, July 9-August 22, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building  
Matthias Weischer, September 3-October 3, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

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[Nari Ward](#), September 9-November 1, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street

[Billy Childish](#), September 10-October 31, 2015, New York, West 22nd Street

[Adriana Varejão](#), October 8-November 14, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

[Teresita Fernández](#), November 5-December 12, 2015, New York, West 22nd Street

[Roberto Cuoghi](#), November 8-December 13, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street

[Shirazeh Houshiary](#), November 19, 2015-January 9, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

For more information on other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Graham Newhall at +1 212 255 2923 or visit [lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com).