

Keith Sonnier  
PORTALS

Maccarone LA  
300 South Mission Road  
February 13 – May 7, 2016

Maccarone Gallery is pleased to announce *PORTALS*, its first exhibition with artist Keith Sonnier in Los Angeles. Comprised of a suite of new wall-mounted neon sculptures, the show will remain on view at 300 South Mission Road through May 7, 2016.

Sonnier's by-now iconic work is emblematic of a generation of artists who sought to liberate the artistic encounter from the formal constraints of Modernism to produce a sensory and emotional experience that also extended beyond the Spartan affect of Minimalism. The omnibus category of "post-Minimalism," however, does not adequately describe both the unique wit and visceral impact that his work evinces.

In his latest series, Sonnier has taken the orphic allegory of the portal and explored its many different historical manifestations. Whether the portal serves as an entrance or an exit, the plane itself is a threshold – a doorway that contains both nascency and termination. Taking this metaphor to its logical end, the works in *PORTALS* can be thought of as doorways to various different periods in human design – whether it be the neoclassical extension of a line into space or Romanesque arcading, each work is a luminous referent to specific architectural pathways.

The artist also displays a perversely delightful humor with the libidinous allegory of the portal as human orifice. Neon phallic protrusions punctuate the joints of these architectural gates, playing at the double-entendre embedded in the show's title. Sonnier challenges the two-dimensionality of neon sculpture through twisting spatial arcs and juts that demand that the viewer change his or her own perspective to deduce what components of the work are exiting or entering. This tension between penetration and accommodation gives each work a wry corporeal undertone that is simultaneously abstracted by architectural allusions. Sonnier evokes art, the body, and architectural history in this polysemous suite of neon works.

*A previous iteration of this show was exhibited at Maccarone's 630 Greenwich Street space in New York from November 6 to December 19, 2015.*