

REBECCA CAMACHO PRESENTS



ALTERED STATES

Josh Callaghan, Genevieve Gaignard, David Korty, Rodney McMillian, Yuval Pudik and Kandis Williams

Curated by Gary Simmons

4 June through 23 July May 2021

Open house reception on Friday 4 June, 11am to 4pm

An altered state of consciousness is defined as any of various states of awareness (as dreaming sleep, a drug-induced hallucinogenic state, or a trance) that deviate from and are usually clearly demarcated from ordinary waking consciousness. Under this thesis, artist Gary Simmons curates *Altered States*, an exhibition of six artists whose work addresses issues of perception and absence in ways that challenge viewers to re-examine their relationship to the world at large, to question first glances and assumptions.

David Korty's playful paintings address self-perception in the context of social media interactions and the prevailing political culture of castigation that has been fueled by the internet. Josh Callaghan's sanded metal paintings invent a narrative of use and wear to form a revelatory patina. Referencing the utilitarian aesthetic of spaceships, both real and imagined, Callaghan's works are multifaceted examples of the duality of representation, both absorbing and reflecting the image of the viewer. Genevieve Gaignard's self-portraits blend humor, persona and popular culture to explore race, femininity, class, and their various intersections, revealing the ways in which the meeting and mixing of contrasting realities can feel much like displacement. Yuval Pudik's collection of fragmented word pairings highlight the absences in verbal commentary, illuminating the words that are not said by investigating those that are. Rodney McMillian, who also focuses on issues of absence, presents a still life sculpture starkly contrasting the culture and history of America. Kandis Williams collage works systematically deconstruct then reconstruct cultural and historical narratives and imagery, unpeeling the layers of a flattened official record and reassembling it into a deeper exploration of race, nationalism and belonging.

Altered states of consciousness allow us to see our lives and ourselves with a broader lens and from different angles of perception than the ordinary mind. Artists have engaged altered states of consciousness to chronicle and consider life experience since the Middle Paleolithic era. The artists included in *Altered States* – Josh Callaghan, Genevieve Gaignard, David Korty, Rodney McMillian, Yuval Pudik and Kandis Williams – continue this legacy, employing abstract measures to chronicle a societal who, what, when and why.

Exhibition curator Gary Simmons was born and raised in New York and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He has had solo exhibitions at the California African American Museum, Los Angeles; Perez Art Museum, Miami; the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Culture Lab Detroit; Studio Museum in Harlem; Museum of Modern Art of Fort Worth; Bohlen Foundation, New York; St. Louis Art Museum; Kunsthaus Zürich; Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; and the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C. Simmons work was included in the influential exhibition *Black Male: Representations of Masculinity in Contemporary American Art* at the Whitney Museum, New York, in 1994. He has also been included in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Menil Collection, Houston; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Additionally Simmons participated in the 2020 Lahore Biennale, Desert X 2019, the 56th Venice Biennale, Sharjah Biennial 12, and Prospect 3, New Orleans. His sculptural installation *Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark* was in residence at Southern Exposure, San Francisco, in 2017.

Gallery hours: Open daily by appointment, schedule online, by phone or email.
Masks and hand sanitizer available, social distancing required.

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