

**ART TORONTO ANNOUNCES 2018 FOCUS: CALIFORNIA**

*"We only have two kinds of weather in California, magnificent and unusual." — James M. Cain, The Baby in the Icebox and Other Short Fiction*

**Toronto, ON (September 18, 2018)** – Art Toronto is excited to announce FOCUS: California for the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of Canada's fair for modern and contemporary art. California-based curators Glen Helfand and Kim Nguyen have invited a selection of exhibitors from San Francisco and Los Angeles to be present at the fair, as well as curated INDOOR/OUTDOOR, the FOCUS exhibition for the 2018 edition. Exhibitors will include Colpa Press (San Francisco), CULT | Aimee Friberg Exhibitions (San Francisco), Electric Works (San Francisco), Et al. (San Francisco), EUQINOM Gallery (San Francisco), Exploratorium (San Francisco), Charlie James Gallery (Los Angeles), Casemore Kirkeby (San Francisco), Gregory Lind Gallery (San Francisco), Night Gallery (Los Angeles) and Royale Projects (Los Angeles).



Karla Wozniak, *Strange Arrangement 3*, 2017. Oil on canvas. 35 x 30 Inches. Courtesy of Gregory Lind Gallery

The shifting terrain and cultural landscape of California is the inspiration for this year's FOCUS exhibition – a state that is full of mythologies and truths about maverick ideas and various brands of free-thinking, California is now an international art powerhouse in the south and a world class tech region to the north. Throughout history it has operated as a site for both refuge and rebirth, contributing to its reputation as something akin to an island in America. At the heart of this state is growth—from the wildness of its landscape, to the bounty of



its resources, to the boom of its cities. Across the state, artists, as well as galleries, are taking particularly bold, adventurous approaches to their crafts—reinventing, reprocessing, and transcending—while continuing to shape and transform the many versions of California that pervade our imaginations.

Driven by these tensions between fact and fiction, the works in INDOOR/OUTDOOR are, much like the state of California itself, filled with glamour, provocation, and the pursuit of an alternate existence.

### **/ Meet the Curators**

#### **GLEN HELFAND**

Glen Helfand is an independent writer, critic, curator, and educator. His writing about art, film, and culture has appeared in many publications including *Artforum*, *The Guardian*, *Aperture*, *Photograph* and *SFMOMA Open Space*. His most recent catalog essays have appeared in *Cary Liebowitz: Museum Show* (Contemporary Jewish Museum), and *Art AIDS America*, (Tacoma Art Museum). He's Associate Professor in the graduate fine arts department at California College of the Arts, where he teaches courses on contemporary art. He also teaches in the graduate and undergraduate art programs at Mills College. He has curated exhibitions for the MH De Young Museum, San Francisco; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; Mills College Art Museum, Oakland; San Jose Museum of Art; the Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena; Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco; the Walter and McBean Galleries, San Francisco Art Institute; Dust Gallery, Las Vegas; Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco; and Fused Space, San Francisco; among others. Born in the San Fernando Valley, he currently lives in Oakland, California.

#### **KIM NGUYEN**

Kim Nguyen is a curator and writer based in San Francisco, where she is Curator and Head of Programs at the CCA Wattis Institute. From 2011-2016, Nguyen was director and curator of Artspeak, a longstanding artist-run non-profit in Vancouver, Canada. Her writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues and periodicals nationally and internationally, with recent texts in catalogues published by Pied-à-Terre (San Francisco), Gluck 50/Mousse (Milan), and the Herning Museum of Art (Denmark). Nguyen is the recipient of the 2015 Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Emerging Curators in Contemporary Canadian Art and the 2016 Joan Lowndes Award from the Canada Council for the Arts for excellence in critical and curatorial writing. She is currently completing her first collection of writings.

### **/Exhibition: INDOOR/OUTDOOR**

Luke Butler, Janet Delaney, Woody De Othello, Dave Eggers, Kota Ezawa, Ramiro Gomez, Terri Loewenthal, Karen Lofgren, Jacqueline Sherlock Norheim, Rick Prelinger, Alan Rath, Chris Sollars, Larry Sultan, Christine Wang, Kandis Williams, Suné Woods, Karla Wozniak

The FOCUS: California exhibition will explore some of the different fields of thought in the community, shedding light on the ideals held throughout the globe. Artists Larry Sultan and Terry Lowenthal each reveal landscapes that are intoxicating and illusory as they chart histories of photography and the psychedelic; Karla Wozniak applies an eye-popping palette to portray lush environments as psychological spaces, ones capable of

fantastic experiences; Christine Wang delves into celebrity and throwaway culture, considering the fallacies of aspiration and its connection to desire and emotional conflict; while Ramiro Gomez challenges the bright sensuality and immaculate veneer of Southern California by inserting the invisible labour that is instrumental to its construction.

The exhibition is bracketed by Rick Prelinger's *Lost Landscapes of Los Angeles* and *San Francisco*, experimental documentaries comprised of rediscovered and largely unseen archival film footage. The films portray the regional histories of these cities as shown in industrial films and home movies, presenting a unique compilation of the everyday lives and hidden histories that contribute to the mythologies of California.

### **/ Panel Discussion: all weather: three projects in the California landscape**

The three speakers that make up the panel of *all weather* will illuminate the ways in which the north, south, and desert areas of California inspire artistic sensibilities and possibilities. From Berkeley, California, **Karla Wozniak** is an artist with a painting practice that incorporates the bold colors and sense of light that are so present in the Bay Area, as well as a very particular kind of domestic life available there. Her paintings concentrate on pleasures and ironies of the indoor/outdoor lifestyle. **Suné Woods** is a Canadian-born artist now residing in Los Angeles. Recently featured in *Made in L.A.* at the Hammer Museum, her work looks at various notions of intimacy, and the loving and violent interactions that play out in personal and public spaces. **Matthew Schum** is a writer based in Los Angeles and a curator of Desert X 2019. The Coachella Valley, long been considered a powerful location and sacred indigenous site and home, is also the site of Desert X, a 'site-specific biennial' that will return to further investigate the vast, strange, and sometimes contradictory world of the urban desert. Schum will offer insights into the approach and program to come in 2019.

### **/ Exhibitors**

Colpa Press  
CULT | Aimee Friberg Exhibitions  
Electric Works  
Et al.  
EUQINOM Gallery  
Exploratorium  
Charlie James Gallery  
Casemore Kirkeby  
Gregory Lind Gallery  
Night Gallery  
Royale Projects



### **About Art Toronto**

Founded in 2000, Art Toronto is Canada's international fair for modern and art. Providing unique access to the Canadian art market, the fair is the most important annual art event in Canada. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, Art Toronto presents important artwork from leading Canadian and international galleries as well as a program of lectures and panel discussions from prominent art world figures, curated projects, an extensive VIP Program, and top-tier cultural offerings throughout the city.

### **Art Toronto**

October 26-29, 2018

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

North Building

255 Front Street West

### **Opening Night**

Thursday, October 25, 2018

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