

DREAMIN' OF A...
CURATED BY SAGI REFAEL



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Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present *Dreamin' of a...*, a group exhibition conceived by Los Angeles-based art historian and curator Sagi Refael featuring work by Adar Aviam, Mara De Luca, Rafa Esparza, Robert Ginder, John Knuth, Renée Lotenero, Marisa Mandler, David O'Brien, Rotem Reshef, Glen Wilson, Nathan Zeidman and Barak Zemer.

The show is a tribute to the landscape of Los Angeles, as seen and experienced by walking its streets and taking its public transportation. The show closely examines the tensions between the glamorous cinematic and televised images of the "City of Angels" and the grittier realities of life in the city. *Dreamin' of a...* takes its title from John Knuth's piece from 2018, a mylar sewn landscape composed on a cardboard sign the artist bought from a homeless person. The piece expresses LA as microcosm of the American Dream and suggests the outlet of creativity and imagination as a means of socio-economic advancement. The artworks gathered for the show vary widely in media and operate together as a form of "Gesamtkunstwerk", aiming to synthesize from many perspectives an idea of the identity of Los Angeles. Emphasizing the city's fragmented and evolving nature, its continuous becoming and collapsing, *Dreamin' of a...* examines the act of dreaming in LA and its linkage to branding and image-making, contemplating drives to self-measure and climb socially against the broader canvas of time, landscape, and community.

Sagi Refael (b. 1980, Tel Aviv, Israel) graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with BA (2005) and MA (2008) degrees in art history. Refael moved to Los Angeles, California in 2012. He has delivered lectures at the University of Southern California, UCLA, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the University of La Verne, American Jewish University, Minshar college of art in Tel Aviv and Mount San Jacinto College in California. Over the past 12 years he has curated and mounted more than 40 exhibitions across the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Refael lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

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ADAR AVIAM



To Union Station (Following
Honoré Daumier's "The Third-Class
Carriage", 1864)
Acrylic and ink on canvas
36 x 60 inches
2018

DREAMIN' OF A...
MARA DE LUCA



J'Adore
Oil on canvas
14 x 11 inches
2015

DREAMIN' OF A...
RAFA ESPARZA



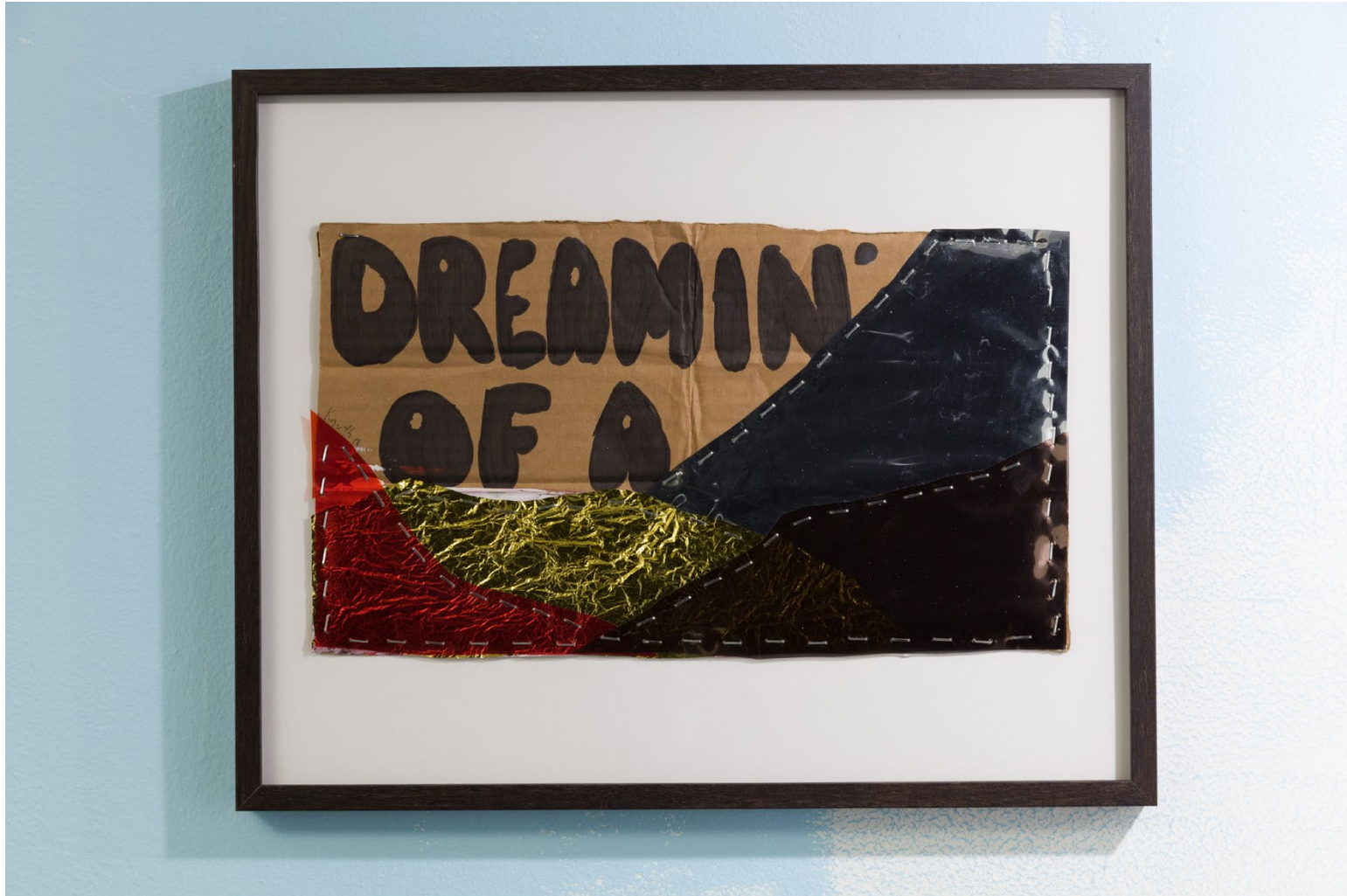
Bust (A meditation on
freedom, near Twin
Towers Correctional
Facility, Chinatown,
April 11, 2015)
Performance, video
documentation in
collaboration with
Dorian Wood
9:10'
Edition of 3
2015

DREAMIN' OF A...
ROBERT GINDER



Cap 2
Oil and gold leaf on
wood on car wheel cover
15 inch diameter
2017

DREAMIN' OF A...
JOHN KNUTH



Dreamin' of a
Mylar, homeless sign, staples
10 x 17 inches
2018

DREAMIN' OF A...
JOHN KNUTH



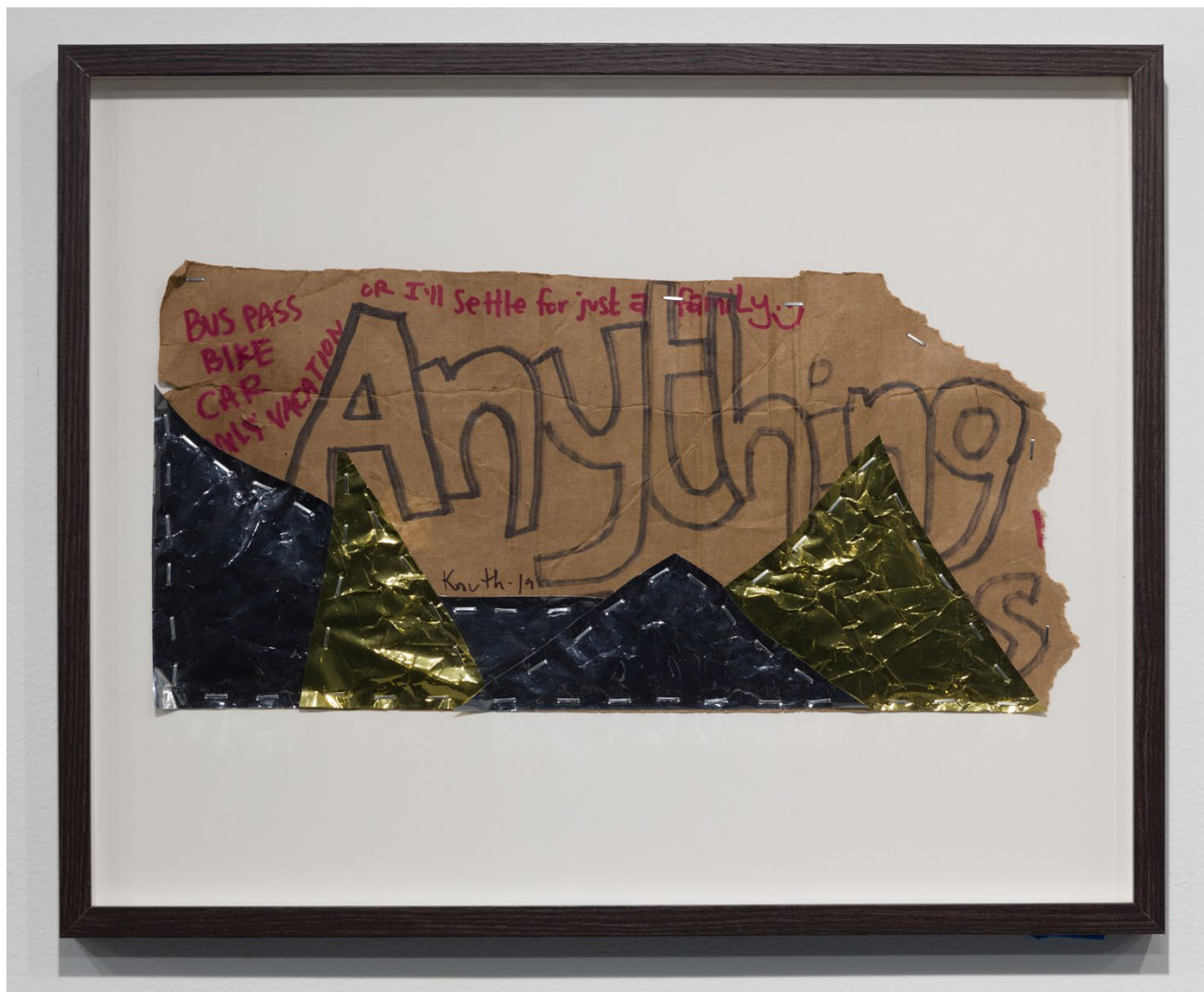
Please Help
Homeless sign, mylar, staples
Framed: 16 x 20 inches
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
JOHN KNUTH



Not Looking 4 A Handout...
Homeless sign, mylar, staples
Framed: 16 x 20 inches
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
JOHN KNUTH



Anything
Homeless sign, mylar, staples
Framed: 16 x 20 inches
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
RENÉE LOTENERO



3005 Division Street
Wood, stucco,
photographs, cement
pavers and decomposed
granite
Dimensions Variable
2017

DREAMIN' OF A...
MARISA MANDLER



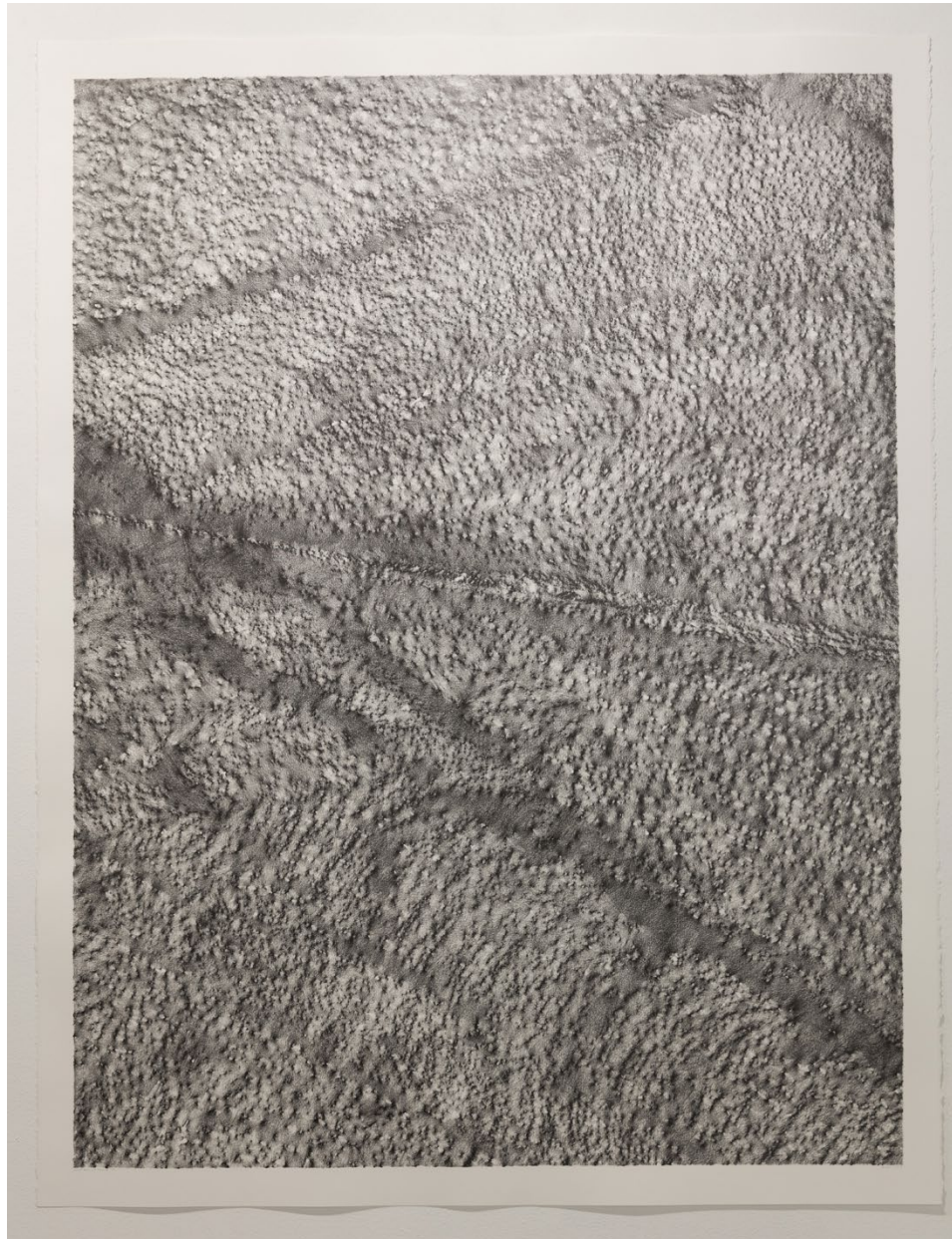
Gates and Barriers
The Los Angeles Times
Newspaper and pins
Dimensions variable
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
DAVID O'BRIEN



Arcadia and Main Street
Graphite on paper
30 x 22 inches
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
DAVID O'BRIEN



Foothill Blvd
and Osborne Street
Graphite on paper
50 x 38 inches
2019

DREAMIN' OF A...
ROTEM RESHEF



Spectrum I-II (Diptych)
Diluted acrylic and mixed
media on two canvases
36 x 48 inches
2018

DREAMIN' OF A...
GLEN WILSON



Front Image



Back Image

Frutas / Flores

Mixed Media: Aluminum, Chain Link, Printed UV Polystyrene
Double sided
49 x 57 inches
2016

DREAMIN' OF A...
GLEN WILSON



Front Image



Back Image

Elements XIII
Mixed Media: Aluminum, Chain Link, Printed UV Polystyrene
Double sided
45 x 57 inches
2013

DREAMIN' OF A...
NATHAN ZEIDMAN



Reader

Etching ink on Rives BFK
Sheet: 40 x 26.25 inches
unique monoprint, 1/1
2014

Psychic+Advisor

Etching ink on Rives BFK
Sheet: 40 x 26.25 inches
unique monoprint, 1/1
2014

DREAMIN' OF A...
NATHAN ZEIDMAN



House at Night
Etching ink on Rives BFK
Sheet: 40 x 26.25 inches
Unique monoprint, 1/1
2014

DREAMIN' OF A...
BARAK ZEMER



My Hand, Chinatown
Inkjet on Archival paper
Sheet: 60 x 37 inches
Edition 1/1
2013

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ARTIST BIOS

Adar Aviam is a Berlin-based painter, installation artist and set designer, that spent the summer of 2018 as an artist-in-residence in Los Angeles, a period that resulted in a solo exhibition. Aviam's humorous social observations mix personal experiences and cultural critique, often by enhancing human flaws, attributes and everyday dramas, projecting on a broader spectrum of behaviours, characters, myths and stereotypes. His work has been internationally exhibited in solo and group exhibitions, in venues as HomeBase LAB, Berlin, Germany; Les Grandes Traversées, Bordeaux, France; IAILA, Los Angeles, USA; The Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel; and The Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel, among others.

Mara De Luca is a Los Angeles-based painter. Her dream-like abstract compositions infuse airy twilight scenes and luminescent dawn atmospheres with a flare of haute couture fashion iconography and a nod to SoCal Light and Space aesthetics. By incorporating traces of manual and emotional labor with a glam veneer of finish-fetish appeal, she echoes commercial and cinematic image-making allure and the plasticity of its romantic construction. De Luca has had solo exhibitions at Hunter Shaw Fine Art, Los Angeles; TOTAH, New York; Quint Projects, San Diego; Edward Cella Art and Architecture, Los Angeles; Luis De Jesus, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Abstruse Space, London, United Kingdom, and Galerie Chromosome, Berlin, Germany, among others. She holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California and a BA from the, Department of Visual Arts, Columbia University, New York. De Luca is a recipient of the 2019 California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists.

Rafa Esparza is a Los Angeles-based artist, whose practice involves durational site-specific performance, installation, painting, and drawing alongside

collaborations with construction workers, family members, fashion designers, friends and colleagues from marginalized communities. Esparza's quest to further present life experiences, traditions and narratives by people of color, especially of brown LGBT Latinx, takes place by inserting forms of labor, conflict, passion and struggle, within the conformist "white-cubes" of the art world, as well as in outdoor public spaces and by enhancing the existing tension and injustice between systems of regulation and the repressed stories of Latinx and queer people, that are being hidden and ignored within the public conscious. Esparza has exhibited in venues as the Whitney Biennial, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Made In LA 2016 Biennial, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts; ICA, Los Angeles; Human Resources, Los Angeles, among others. He has attended studies at East Los Angeles College, and earned a BA in Fine Arts from UCLA, Los Angeles.

Robert Ginder is a Las Vegas-based artist, formally living in Los Angeles and New York. In his paintings of Southern California landscapes, he juxtaposes common Mexican-inspired architecture, stucco finishes, palm trees, fruit stands and beachscapes, with a gold-leaf background, turning seemingly ordinary views into contemporary icons reminiscing of sacred Byzantine art. Luring the viewer with their gilded glow, his works suggest the appreciation of beauty in the sideroads, inner neighbourhood and short-lived items, that are often being passed by unnoticed. Ginder has exhibited extensively since the early 1980's, in galleries and museums such as La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida; O.K. Harris, New York; Posco Gallery, Seoul, South Korea; Lora Schlesinger Gallery, Santa Monica; Belvedere Castle & Museum, Vienna, Austria; Quint Contemporary, San Diego, among others.

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John Knuth is a Los Angeles based artist and educator. His conceptual practice challenges traditional notions of art making by creating works through DIY techniques, unusual materials and surprising assistants. Whether in his pointillist paintings conceived by flyspeck, his burnt metallic space blankets or his sculptural Mylar sandbags that allude to war trenches or architectural ruins, he constantly examines the borderline between creation and destruction, and the possibility of forming majestic pieces from everyday low-cost materials. Knuth's recent solo exhibitions include Hollis Taggart, New York, NY; The Silver Scenery at NewStudio Gallery, Minneapolis, MN; The Distorted Landscape at Marie Kirkegaard Gallery, Copenhagen, DK; Lake of Fire at Andrew Rafacz, Chicago, IL; Power-plant at Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy; Base Alchemy at 5 Car Garage, Santa Monica, CA; and Fading Horizon at Human Resources, Los Angeles, CA. He received an MFA from the University of Southern California and a BFA from the University of Minnesota.

Renée Lotenero is a sculptor and installation artist based in Los Angeles and Lisbon, Portugal. Her work often takes the shape of a collapsed pile of architectural ruins, or an interior of a house that has gotten out of control. By using illusionistic elements of Trompe-l'œil, incorporating photographs and collage alongside tactile materials as bricks, sand and plaster, Lotenero conceives symbolic worlds that confront artificially-made facades with real-life residue, and environments that although dysfunctional, they are still too soulful and animated to be seen as waste. Lotenero's has been shown in solo and group exhibitions across the USA and Europe, such as at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Otoco Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal; Repubblica & Glendower, Villasor, Sardinia, Italy; Peveto Gallery, Houston, TX; Piazza Celestino Placanica, Monasterace Superiore, Calabria, Italy; California Pacific Triennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach; Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Malibu,

CA; DENK Gallery, Los Angeles; Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles; Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles; Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL; Sofa Gallery, Austin, TX, among others. Lotenero has earned an MFA from UCLA, Los Angeles, and a BFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California.

Marisa Mandler is a multidisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles and Berlin, Germany, working across the media of drawing, sculptural installation, sound and writing. Her meticulously composed creations are cut, sewn, stitched, cast, tattooed and assembled into groupings of fragmented moments and body parts, jointly composing frail echoes of gestural and moody tracing marks. Mandler's diverse material choices often deal with tension between existence and erasure, stability and its removal, while often emphasizing the duration of the creative process and its delicate temporality. Mandler received a Bachelor of Science in painting from New York University, and an MFA from USC - University of Southern California, Los Angeles, where she is currently a professor in the painting and drawing department. Her work has been exhibited in the Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany; Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Madison, Maine; Kunsttraject, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Arena 1 gallery, Santa Monica, among others.

David O'Brien is an artist and certified architect based in Los Angeles. In his graphite drawings and silk screen paintings, O'Brien conceptually marks traces of forgotten historical events and political narratives, that don't have official on-site commemorative signs, monuments or plaques. Focusing on ground surfaces, O'Brien's pictorial version of Land Art brings the overlooked sights and suggestive textures to our direct attention. David O'Brien has held solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, Berlin and New Mexico, and has participated in numerous group exhibitions including shows at LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions); MOCA (Museum of Contemporary

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Art), Los Angeles; Johansson Projects, San Francisco; Richard Heller gallery, Santa Monica; SIM Artist Space, Reykjavik, Iceland; Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica; Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA; Site:Brooklyn, New York, NY; among others.

Rotem Reshef is a painter and installation artist, based in New York and Tel Aviv, Israel. Her “ghostly” photogram-like compositions present the remains of natural and artificial objects that had been part of the creation process and were removed upon completion. Reshef’s contemporary fossils allude to ecological and climatic impacts on local flora and vegetation, but also suggest an introspection of human’s emotional and bodily reactions to color, texture and the elusive representation of absence. Reshef’s forthcoming solo exhibition “Arcadia” will open at the Katonah Museum of Art, NY, in October 2019. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at the School of Visual Arts (SVA), New York; Scope Miami Beach, Miami, FL; La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy; Kwan Fong gallery, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA; Tall Wall Space, University of La Verne, CA; Soho House, West Hollywood; Artists House, Tel Aviv; San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA; FSU Museum of Fine Arts, Tallahassee, FL; Susan Eley Fine Art, New York, among others. She has an MA from the Reinwardt Academy, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and a BA from Hamidrasha Beit Berl School of Art, Ramat-Hasharon, Israel.

Glen Wilson is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Los Angeles. Wilson, who began his practice as a street photographer, integrates regional awareness of neighborhoods, landscape and socio-political commentary, into work that emphasizes the dynamics and tensions between individuals and the shifting hierarchical matrix of public communal spaces. In his woven chain link fence assemblages, images of empowered yet vulnerable ‘presence’ emerge to form a statement about fragmentation

and unity, movement and stillness, nature and closure, freedom and the lack of it. Focusing on Venice Beach as a symptomatic arena of gentrification and widening economic gaps, Wilson brings to mind historical precedents of division, overcoming and barrier breaking. Wilson has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles; ICA, Los Angeles; Torrance Art Museum, CA; Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles; Quotidian Gallery, Los Angeles; East and Peggy Phelps Galleries, Claremont College, CA; California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, among others. He received his MFA from the University of California, San Diego and a BA from Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Nathan Zeidman is a painter based in Los Angeles until recently. Zeidman typically works at night, when he loads his truck with painting equipment, and drives across the city in search of streetscapes. His targeted sites are often illuminated by a neon glow, as nail salons, psychic studios and flower shops, as well as suburban domestic views with an inner light that flows outside through the windows, suggesting a mysterious charisma to the otherwise sleepy environment. Zeidman has exhibited in solo and group shows at High Art, Paris, France ; Hannah Hoffman gallery, Los Angeles; Downs & Ross, New York; VSF - Various Small Fires, Los Angeles and New Wight Gallery, UCLA, among others. He has an MFA from UCLA, Los Angeles, and a BFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Barak Zemer is a Los Angeles based artist working in photography, video and sculpture. By framing seemingly banal everyday situations or staging still-life compositions out of handy materials, Zemer uses humor and attention to detail in order to transcend the bizarre and the abject into sensual circumstances and unexpected beauties. Often preferring body parts, found objects and unusual camera angles, he forms a sculptural presence in interiors and landscapes, confronting the natural

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ARTIST BIOS

with the artificial, sewing dramatic potential of the ordinary into pseudo snap shot mise-en-scenes. Zemer has participated in solo and group exhibitions at Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Altman Siegel, San Francisco; Joan Gallery, Los Angeles; NADA Miami Beach, Miami, FL; Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; CEPA, Buffalo, NY; Roberta Pelan Gallery, Toronto, Canada; AWHRHVAR, Los Angeles; ltd, Los Angeles; Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv. Israel and Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, California, among others. He has an MFA from the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, Los Angeles, and a BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, Israel, and is a senior lecturer at Otis College of Arts and Design.