

IT'S OK ↘
CURATED BY SACHA BAUMANN



CJG CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY
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Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present *IT'S OK. ↘* a group exhibition curated by Sacha Baumann, featuring Nadege Monchera Baer, Hayley Barker, Megan Mueller, Stephen Neidich, Kottie Paloma, Molly Segal, and Luke Whitlatch.

John Laroche: You know why I like plants?

Susan Orlean: Nuh uh.

John Laroche: Because they're so mutable. Adaptation is a profound process. Means you figure out how to thrive in the world.

Susan Orlean:

Yeah but it's easier for plants. I mean they have no memory. They just move on to whatever's next. With a person though, adapting is almost shameful. It's like running away.

—excerpt from *Adaptation*, screenplay by Charlie Kaufman and Donald Kaufman, adapted from the book, *The Orchid Thief*, by Susan Orlean

Seven artists explore the profound process of adaptation, eschewing any shame. In fact, it's OK to adapt in an effort to be well-suited for the current moment or for an imagined future, despite the awkwardness mutability may expose. The artists employ disparate approaches: adjusting art practice to the space in which it is displayed, creating icons based on truths, adapting by moving on, creating armors for protection and dazzling displays, to both attract suitors and repel enemies. In *IT'S OK. ↘*, adaptation is playful, practical, anticipatory, necessary, and sometimes excessive.

Nadege Monchera Baer's mixed media drawing-paintings migrate between two poles, one that is intuitive and abstract and another built by definitive concepts. For this exhibition the work primarily begun in the latter mode of a specific event and then completed through the former exploratory path, allowing gesture, pattern and layering to animate and release inherently frozen moments into a complex less fixed and known, ultimately transformative. Hayley Barker's paintings and drawings are self portraits; they are icons. Images start with "beddrawings" and then become paintings. They include text and faces which come intuitively in morning drawing practices and reveal a

woman-looking self in a variety of psychological states. Her small works draw from the worlds of dreams, mystical states and the mundane. Megan Mueller's images are created by placing objects and photographs on a flatbed scanner, often inviting gesture and ambient light to distort the capturing of information. Her projects engage gravity, the peripheral and timekeeping through an ongoing investigation of the spaces where the built and natural environment merge. Kottie Paloma's new paintings are composed of muted colors and text portraying a rough poetry of daily life in which he describes as abstract narratives leading the viewer into snippets or chapters of a yet to be completed book. His sculptures evoke the idea of reuse, form over function, and serve as the 3-D component of his narrative style. Stephen Neidich's kinetic sculptures are made of industrial metal objects and tools found in the studio and the outside world. They leverage our familiarity of everyday objects against the experience and performance of making art. These gestural spinning and rotating sculptures make plain how, and from what materials they are made—they relish in the acrobatics of their production. Molly Segal's paintings of oil fields, dying thistles, cacti, and cockroaches serve as reminders of cyclical interdependence. She is concerned with the costs and limits of intimacy. The use of water-media on slick nonporous surfaces reveal what happens when boundaries begin to blur and bleed. Luke Whitlatch's mixed media paintings are visual representation of the ghosts of lore and personal experience. They are physical representation of the gray area involved in the passing on of stories. These abstract works act as a memorial for specific experiences that cannot be conveyed through conventional imagery.

About the curator: Sacha Baumann is an artist, designer, and arts business professional living and working in downtown Los Angeles. She is the curator and publisher of FULL BLEDE, a free, independent contemporary broadsheet featuring art, writing and design; Issue Four: The Pattern is currently in production. Sacha is a Master of Art, Art Business candidate at Claremont Graduate University, Sotheby's Institute of Art / Drucker School of Management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Communication from San Francisco State University.

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IT'S OK ↘
NADEGE MONCHERA BAER



Embers
Pencil and acrylic
on Mylar, mounted
on Sintra
36 x 40 inches
2011

IT'S OK ↘
HAYLEY BARKER



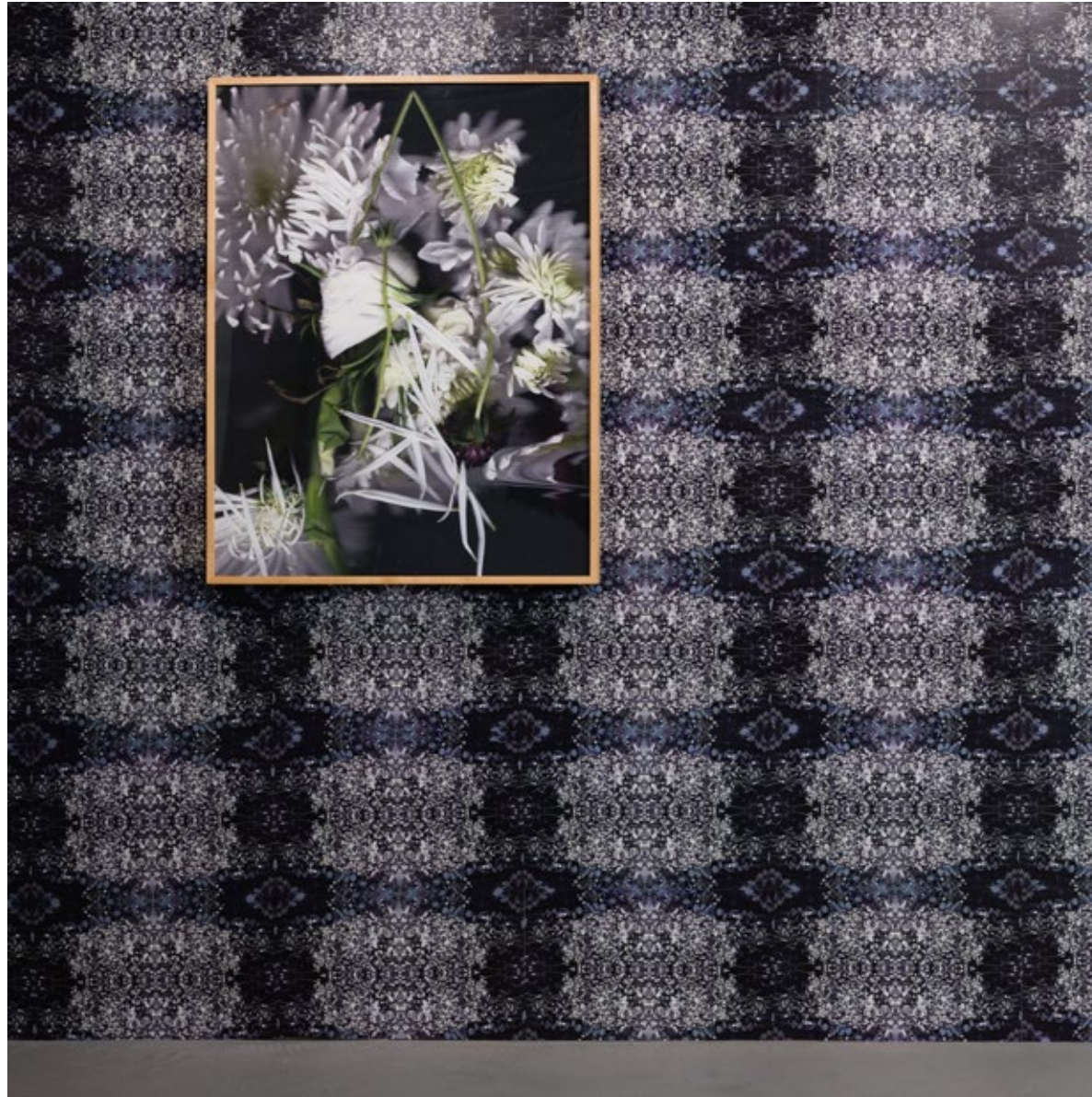
Allover again
Oil paint, pastels,
and colored pencil
on panel
16 x 20 inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
HAYLEY BARKER



Space
Oil paint, pastels,
and colored pencil
on panel
16 x 20 inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
MEGAN MUELLER



Quick and endless 3
Silver halide
archival print,
artist's frame
34 x 26 inches
2018
Ed. of 3 + 1 AP

Quick and endless 3
Laser print on
masonite
72 x 72 x 264
inches, Installation
11 x 17 inches
Wallpaper tile
2018
Ed. 100

IT'S OK ↘
STEPHEN NEIDICH



*gotta gotta get up
to get down*
Steel channels, sprockets,
#40 roller chains,
universal gear motor
55 x 71 x 18 inches
2018

IT'S OK ↘
KOTTIE PALOMA



Too Much Dirty Here
Acrylic and crayon
on canvas
65.5 x 84 inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
KOTTIE PALOMA



My Tank Is Better Than Your Tank
acrylic, silicone, glitter, and
paint roller
13 x 13 x 13 Inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
MOLLY SEGAL



Drought Tolerance
Watercolor and gouache
on paper
80 x 60 inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
LUKE WHITLATCH



*And you will see
their bones not
separate yet from
death*
Oil, acrylic, and
dye on bleached
canvas
60 x 72 inches
2017

IT'S OK ↘
LUKE WHITLATCH



The Rev. Volume 1
Oil, acrylic, and
dye on
canvas
18 x 24 inches
2016

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IT'S OK ↘ ARTIST BIOS

Nadege Monchera Baer is a French born American artist who lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She received a BA from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris. She was awarded the "Medicis Prize" which also encompassed a full time residency in Berlin. She emigrated to United States shortly after completing another residency in New York for painting at Art/Omi. Her work has been included in numerous solo and group shows internationally including Paris, Germany, and Japan. Recent exhibitions include Stuart Haaga Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, Torrance Art Museum, Pøst Gallery, Firehouse Gallery, Nassau College (Long Island, New York), LAUNCH Gallery, and BLAM Projects in Los Angeles and Brooklyn, New York.

Hayley Barker (b. 1973) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She received a BA from the University of Oregon and an MFA from the University of Iowa. Recent solo exhibitions include The Ambassadors at Carl & Sloan Contemporary and Apparition Hill at Charles A. Hartmann Fine Art in Portland, as well as Plants Bodies Stars at Luis de Jesus in Los Angeles. Barker's works have appeared in group exhibitions at the Pit, Dalton Warehouse, and Egyptian Art and Antiques in Los Angeles, Rainmaker Gallery, Disjecta, and The Art Gym in Portland, and Gallery Protocol in Gainesville, Florida. Barker co-curated Women on the Fence at the Mothership Festival, Desert Hot Springs and her work has been featured in numerous publications such as New American Paintings and The Harvard Divinity Bulletin. Her most recent solo show Bozo Mag Presents 'New Paintings by Hayley Barker' at Abode garnered a review by Catherine Wagley and was an LA Weekly Pick for August 2017. This winter she has a solo show, AMPM, at Williamson Knight gallery in Portland.

Megan Mueller (b. 1982) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She received an MFA in Studio Art from the University of California at Santa Barbara (2015), a BFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University (2008), and a BA in Political Science from George Washington University

(2004). Mueller's work has been exhibited at various national and international venues including Noysky Projects, Dalton Warehouse, CES Gallery, Field Projects, New Wight Gallery at UCLA, High Desert Test Sites, GLAMFA, Transformer, TSV Berlin, the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art.

Kottie Paloma (b. 1974) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. He briefly attended California College of the Art in Oakland/San Francisco from 2001-2002, where he studied under Chris Brown. Currently, Kottie is a featured artist in the group exhibition Show Time at the Bavarian State Library in Munich Germany along with Raymond Pettibon, Destroy All Monsters, Kara Walker, Kim Soo Ja, Keith Haring, and others. Six of Kottie's handmade books are in the public collection of New York Museum of Modern Art and he has artworks in a dozen other public collections including Stanford, Yale, University of Connecticut, and the School Of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria. Recent group shows include Mutual Affection at Art Movement Los Angeles, Baker's Dozen at the Torrance Art Museum, and Tigeraugen at Jaus Gallery. From 2012-16 Kottie lived and worked in Berlin, Germany. His first catalog XOXO was published by Pogo Books in 2012 and has recently been included in the permanent library at the Tate Modern, London. In addition to his art career, Kottie has written a 17 episode television comedy about the behind-the-scenes aspects of the art world in Los Angeles.

Stephen Neidich (b.1984) was born in New York City and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California. His work spans installation, sculpture, and performance. He received a BA from Brown University and an MFA from Cal Arts. Neidich most recently had a solo exhibition at LTD Los Angeles; his work has also been exhibited at Night Gallery, Chimento Contemporary, Werkartz, Anat Ebgi and LA><ART in Los Angeles, Kunsthalle Vienna, Kunsthalle Galapagos, Berlin and at 211 Elizabeth Street in New York City, amongst others. He participated in Chinatown's Perform Now! His work has been featured in artinfo, Art Forum, as well AMUSE ID.

IT'S OK ↘ ARTIST BIOS

Molly Segal (b. 1983) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She received a BFA from the California College of the Arts and an MFA from The School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, MA. Her paintings have recently appeared in group exhibitions at Zevitas Marcus (Los Angeles), iartcolony (Rockport, MA), BLAM (Los Angeles) and Betti Ono Gallery (Oakland). Segal's work and writing have been featured in publications including Venison Quarterly, Reflections of The Burden of Men, FULL BLEDE, and Lapham's Quarterly. She was a resident artist at Virginia Center for Creative Arts in 2017 and has an upcoming residency at the Vermont Studio Center in March of 2018.

Luke Whitlatch (b. 1977, Casper, Wyoming) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. He received a BFA from Otis College (2001) where he received the Baldessari Senior Award. Whitlatch's work has been exhibited at various national venues including Richard Heller Gallery, Driscoll and Babcock Gallery, Rivington Arms Gallery, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Carl Berg Gallery, Edward Cella Gallery and Bandini Gallery. His work has been published in the Columbia literature and Art Journal as well as the Huffington Post.

