

MATERIAL LUST [American b.1981,1986]
INDEPENDENT 7-10 MARCH 2019
C/O SPRING PLACE 6 ST JOHNS LANE NYC

DEBUTING AT 'INDEPENDENT' A PART OF THEIR SPECIAL PROJECTS AS AN INCUBATOR FOR UNREPRESENTED YOUNG ARTISTS. IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE MATERIAL LUST (CHRISTIAN LOPEZ SWAFFORD AND LAUREN LARSON) HAVE SHOWN A NEW BODY OF WORK. THE WORK WAS DONE TOGETHER AND SEPARATELY MARKING THEIR SIXTH YEAR AS A STUDIO.

2019

RETURN OF THE OPPRESSED

ML19001 THE WORK FOCUSES ON THE STEADY INFLUX OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL OPPRESSION ON OUR POPULACE,
ML19002 AND THE WAY THAT OPPRESSION AND SOCIETY'S REACTION TO IT MANIFEST IN OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT.
ML19003 ML HAS IDENTIFIED PRESSURES AND STRESSES THAT WE HAVE LABELED AS OPPRESSION. THIS OPPRESSION
ML19004 CAN BE EXTERNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OR INTERNAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL. THE EXTERNAL INCLUDES
ML19005 THE OPPRESSIVE NATURE OF OUR CURRENT SOCIOLOGICAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE. THE
ML19006 INTERNAL INCLUDES OUR DECLINING MENTAL HEALTH AND DEGRADING QUALITY OF LIFE, AS WELL AS
ML19007 INCURABLE DISEASES AND THE EFFECT OF AGING ON THE BODY. THESE OPPRESSORS TAKE A TOLL ON OUR
ML19008 COLLECTIVE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. IN TURN THE POPULACE HAVE FOUND WAYS TO COPE WITH AND
ML19009 DEFEND AGAINST THESE PRESSURES VIA MODERN DISTRACTIONS AND SELF SOOTHING. PUT ANOTHER WAY,
ML19010 THE POPULACE HAS DEVELOPED THEIR OWN PROTECTIVE SKIN TO DEFEND AGAINST THESE OPPRESSORS.
ML19011 RETURN OF THE OPPRESSED SHOWS HOW THE OPPRESSORS, THE POPULACE, AND OUR PROTECTIVE SKINS
MANIFEST IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH A SERIES OF SCULPTURES, RELIEFS AND PAINTINGS.
ML HAS INCLUDED MODERN MATERIALS SUCH AS RUBBER, LATEX AND PLASTIC AS WELL AS OLD WORLD
MATERIALS LIKE HARDWOOD, PLASTER AND STEEL. THE NESTING FORMS ARE ARRANGED IN A WAY THAT
INFERS PROTECTION, AND A SENSE OF ARMORING ONESELF. MUCH OF THE WORK IS PURPOSELY STALLED IN
A PROTOTYPE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO ADD LAYERS WITHOUT LOSING THE TEXTURE OF THE
ORIGINAL FORM.

/ ABOUT MATERIAL LUST

DARK HORSE DISCIPLES OF ART AND DESIGN, MATERIAL LUST (CHRISTIAN SWAFFORD AND LAUREN LARSON), ABIDE BY A SOLITARIAN PHILOSOPHY, WHOLLY INDEPENDENT OF TREND, TRAJECTORY, OR CORPORATE SYSTEM. THOUGH THEIR WORK DRAWS ON MYRIAD INFLUENCES—THE GUIDANCE OF THEIR ARTIST MOTHERS; THE OLD-WORLD METHODS OF THE MASTER ARTISANS WITH WHOM THEY PARTNER IN FLORENCE, ITALY AND NEW YORK; AND A WILL TO UPEND THE COMMERCIAL AND CONVENTIONAL—THEIR INTENT REMAINS SHARPLY FOCUSED. THROUGH PRESERVATION OF TIME-HONORED TECHNIQUE AND AN UNCOMPROMISING COMMITMENT TO FORWARD-THINKING DESIGN, SWAFFORD AND LARSON HONOR THE DIGNITY IN THE OMINOUS, THE GROTESQUE, AND THE OFT-FORGOTTEN; PUSHING THE BOUNDS OF WHAT DESERVES TO BE SEEN. IN ADDITION TO DESIGN, THE PAIR BRING OVER TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO CREATIVE CONSULTING, ART DIRECTION, PRODUCT DESIGN AND INTERIORS, WORKING REGULARLY WITH CLIENTS SEEKING BOLD AND UNORTHODOX METHODS OF DEVELOPING THEIR BRANDS, PRODUCTS, OR SPACES. ML WORK HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN WSJ, CULTURED, THE NEW YORK TIMES AS WELL AS NAMED CULTURED'S THE TWENTY FIVE AND ARTSY'S 30 EMERGING ARTIST TO WATCH DURING FRIEZE.

/ CHRISTIAN LOPEZ SWAFFORD (FOUNDER)

CHRISTIAN LOPEZ SWAFFORD, (B. 1981, WASHINGTON, D.C.) IS A DESIGNER WHOSE WORK RECONCILES THE TRADITIONAL LYRICALITY OF EUROPEAN AND AMERINDIAN AESTHETICS WITH THE PRAGMATISM OF THE INFORMATION AGE. COMBINING DISPARATE STYLES AND HISTORIES IS A PRACTICE AT WHICH HE IS EXPRESSLY ADEPT. RAISED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., HE SPENT MUCH OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN OAXACA WITH HIS MOTHER, A PAINTER WHO ENCOURAGED SWAFFORD TO IMMERSE HIMSELF IN THE RICH ARTISTIC LEGACY OF MEXICAN CULTURE; MEANWHILE, HIS FATHER, AN AMERICAN SOFTWARE ENGINEER, WAS PIONEERING BUSINESS APPLICATIONS OF SYSTEMS INFORMATION STORAGE DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS. YEARS LATER, SWAFFORD WENT ON TO EARN HIS BFA FROM PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN IN NEW YORK, WHERE HE STUDIED THE IMPLICATIONS OF ART AND DESIGN IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF, AND ADVOCACY FOR, SOCIAL ISSUES. IN ADDITION TO HIS WORK WITH MATERIAL LUST, SWAFFORD WORKS WITH THOSE JUST EMERGING INTO THE WORLD OF DESIGN, AS A TEACHER AND LECTURER AT HIS ALMA MATER.

/ LAUREN LARSON (CO FOUNDER)

LAUREN LARSON (B. 1986, PORTLAND, OR) HAS OVER TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN CREATIVE CONSULTING, ART DIRECTION, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, AND INTERIOR DESIGN. MERGING A FINE ARTS BACKGROUND (NURTURED IN LARGE PART BY HER MOTHER, A PAINTER), WITH RIGOROUS ACADEMIC TRAINING, HER WORK IS CONCURRENTLY SOFT AND STRIKING, ASSERTIVE AND ENIGMATIC. LARSON EARNED HER BFA FROM PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN, WHERE SHE RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT.



ML19001
wood and latex
55"H x 22"W x 23"D

MMXIX
PHASE VI
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#MATERIALLUSTNEWYORKCITY