

MATERIAL LUST [American b.1981,1986]

MATERIAL LUST ANNEX
5/2016
PRIVATE INSTALLATION
CHRISTIE STREET STUDIOS LES
C/O 195 CHRYSTIE STREET NEW YORK, NY 10002

2016 THE MATERIAL LUST ANNEX WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL, ARTIST-RUN SPACE THAT REDEFINED THE CONCEPT OF A TOTAL WORK OF ART. THE ANNEX SERVED AS HOST TO AN EVOLVING SERIES OF INSTALLATIONS THAT REPRESENT FULLY REALIZED ENVIRONMENTS, FROM SOUND TO SCENT. LOCATED ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE AT 195 CHRYSTIE, THE BURGEONING HEART OF NEW YORK'S ART WORLD, IT WAS A SPACE THAT TRANSCENDED THE GALLERY METHOD. SIMULTANEOUSLY IMMERSIVE AND ENIGMATIC, PRIMITIVE AND PROGRESSIVE, ALLURING AND ABSTRACT, A RADICAL VENUE FOR OUTSIDER ART. HERE, WE DREW INSPIRATION FROM DREAMS, DEVIANCE, AND THE WORK OF OUR SURREALIST HEROES TO CREATE DESIGN THAT'S CHALLENGING, CONFRONTATIONAL, AND PROVOCATIVE. THOUGH WE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ALONGSIDE OUR PEERS, OUR PHILOSOPHY IS AND WAS PURELY SOLITARIAN. WE WERE SPLIT FROM THE SYSTEM AND SEVERED FROM THE MACHINE. WE SEEKED TO APPROPRIATE WHAT'S BANAL AND BOURGEOIS, SALVAGING FROM THE OLD SOMETHING THAT REMAINS UNSPOILED—AND, FROM DARKNESS, FORGING A SENSITIVITY, AN AWARENESS, AND A RESPECT FOR WHAT'S OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD. WHILE WE HONORED THE PAST—RELYING EXTENSIVELY ON OLD-WORLD METHODS AND MATERIALS—WE WERE IN RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF NEW IDEAS, CRAFTING INNOVATIVE FORMS THAT STRAY FROM MASS PRODUCTION AND MINDLESS CONSUMPTION. WE BELIEVED IN ART AS HEIRLOOM AND CREATIVE COLLABORATION AS A PATH TO LIBERATION. THUS THE ANNEX WAS BORN. HERE, MATERIAL LUST DEBUTED THEIR FIRST VIDEO INSTALLATION APOSTATE.

/ 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.



DERMA TUMOR I

ALPACA, ROPE, WOOL, COTTON,
LEATHER AND RUBBER TOOL DIP ON
COTTON WARP
3'W x 4'H

MMXVI
PHASE IV
#MATERIALLUST @MATERIALLUST
#MATERIALLUSTNEWYORKCITY