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P R E S S R E L E A S E

***SIMPLY BOLD Abstractions* opens at SITE131: April 10 ~ June 14, 2019**



Nathalie Alfonso



Harris Chowdhary



Jason Koen



Tony Lewis



Sati Zech

SITE131 opens the Spring season on April 10, 2019 with ***SIMPLY BOLD Abstractions***. Curator/director Joan Davidow gathers dynamic international artists matched with national and area talent. To open the Dallas Art Fair's signature weekend, SITE131 stages ***Open], a Performance by Nathalie Alfonso*** on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 5pm at 131 Payne Street in the Dallas Design District. Three of the five artists will attend the opening.

For ***SIMPLY BOLD ABSTRACTIONS***, Berliner **SATI ZECH** sets the stage with her irregularly shaped canvases painted in signature lush red tones. **NATHALIE ALFONSO** from Colombia mounts a performance piece with her brazen charcoal strokes and strong erasure marks. **HARRIS CHOWDHARY** of American-Pakistani heritage adds dimension with invented aluminum sculptures. Chicagoan **TONY LEWIS** uses graphite powder to draw charming bulbous shapes and interlocking text imagery. And Texan **JASON KOEN'S** intimate concrete rectangles line the walls. The exhibition runs through June 14, 2019.

Upon entering SITE131 prepare yourself for the shock of a broad charcoal strike across the gallery walls. Colombian **NATHALIE ALFONSO'S** work investigates manual labor by integrating mark making and cleaning. Using charcoal, Alfonso will draw a thick, solid black line on the gallery's stark white walls and spend time scrubbing it off. The exhaustive

process causes her to question the value of labor and evaluate her need for order and meticulousness. She considers the body's degeneration and notions of impermanence. She observes her constant obsession with cleanliness of repetitive movements of applied and removed charcoal and its effect on the walls, rags, and paper. Scrubbing off the line causes her to accept the real nature of her materials and their irremovable memory. She also recognizes the impossibility of returning to the surface's original appearance.

SATI ZECH, from Germany, makes abstract paintings in her signature lush red color or her dense black tones. Landscape-like work can be compared to folk art and American quilts. Zech uses painted strips of fabric and other elements, such as oil, plaster, glue, and thread. Though abstract, these works address communication. Her rhythmic compositions present like elements of music, flags, or skin that she's branded.

Wunderkind **HARRIS CHOWDHARY** studies political economy and the built environment. He thinks about global capitalism, abstraction, power, geography, contemporary art, systems, strategy, and the city. His modernist sculptures address the alienation he sees in contemporary world. Chowdhary witnesses suburban sprawl and sees us losing urban architecture founded on the American dream. Inspired by industrial architecture and design, and using reclaimed materials, he addresses suburban psychology by clamping and strapping, using glass bricks and found aluminum.

Chicagoan **TONY LEWIS** creates colored pencil and graphite powder drawings. His intensely colored shapes interact, intersect, and interplay as though they complete a musical composition. The very young artist participated in the Studio Museum in Harlem in 2015, appeared in the Whitney Biennial in 2014, and graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago in 2017. Lewis' work speaks to issues of language, identity, and the sensibilities of racism. The sparse, large drawings appear in gradations of black and white. Looking like personal writings, the drawings appear abstract and spare.

Dallasite **JASON KOEN** debuts his art career at SITE131. He likes making things and recalls his attraction to absence and negative space, as in the work of Rachel Whiteread. Always project-minded, he's made skateboarding videos and worked in the family packaging and shipping carton business, which tweaked his curiosity about the use of packaging and space. Using a cement-based material he mixes with lime, ready-made cement mix, and existing black cement, he developed his own art form. He began pouring the objects: taking much of himself out of the process. He addressed the simple negative space of the

bag, using the object as its own mold that evoked the weightlessness of the object, as though just discarded.

Special thanks to the artists, galleries, and collectors: **Clark Gallery, Lincoln, Massachusetts, Green Family Collection,** and **Collection of Claire and Brian Gogel** for their participation in *SIMPLY BOLD Abstractions*. At the southeast end of the Design District, SITE131 at 131 Payne Street, Dallas 75207, is open Fridays, noon ~ 5pm, and by appointment. Special tours can be arranged. Director|curator Joan Davidow and assistant to director Stephanie DeLay can be reached online at SITE131.com or hello@site131.com.

SITE131, 131 Payne Street, Dallas, TX 75207