FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUSH/STRIKE/RESIST
January 25 – February 18, 2017
Keren Benbenisty • Liliya Lifanova • Brett Swenson
Curated by Melinda Wang

Equity Gallery, 245 Broome Street, NY, NY 10002
Opening Reception: Wednesday, January 25, 6–8pm
Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 12–6pm, and by appointment

New York, NY, January 6, 2017 – Equity Gallery is pleased to announce Push/Strike/Resist, a group exhibition in collaboration with Residency Unlimited, featuring the works of Keren Benbenisty, Liliya Lifanova and Brett Swenson. The exhibition will be on view from January 25 through February 18, 2017, with a public opening reception on January 25, 6-8pm.

The three artists explore how we confront boundaries – physical, natural, social and political – and examine different approaches to negotiating tension and resistance. Keren Benbenisty investigates how nature both undermines and overtakes man-made physical and political borders in the Mediterranean. In her new video work, she examines our
comprehension of the magnitude of nature in a hypnotic translation of nautical charts of the depths of the sea. Liliya Lifanova breaks and mends surfaces, redefining drawing in a site-specific installation of bull-whipped paper and pins. In her ceramic sculptures evoking Czech border fortifications, Lifanova juxtaposes fragility and strength, while addressing the need for tension to achieve physical balance. Brett Swenson’s obsidian and jack-post installation invades the gallery space with a symbiosis of the natural and man-made. He pushes the limits of the materials while the work seemingly extends beyond the gallery’s vertical boundaries.

With a shared emphasis on materiality and experimentation, each of the artists exposes in their work the desire to break down false limits and the range of human emotions that come when confronting the unknown.


Liliya Lifanova (b. 1983 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; lives and works in New York, NY) received her MFA from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 2010 and her BFA from The City University of New York, Brooklyn College in 2006. Her solo exhibitions include “Study for L’Attente,” W10W, New York, NY (2016); “Rumour from Ground Control,” Rooster Gallery, New York, NY (2015); “canvass [PHASE I, II],” Gridchinhal, Moscow, Russia and “Flying Carpet Prayers,” El Posito, Belalcazar, Cordoba, Spain (both in 2011); and “The Wardrobe: A Game in Waiting,” SUGs Gallery X, Chicago, IL (2009). Recent group exhibitions include “Ladies Knight,” World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum, Saint Louis, MO (2016); and “Time + Space (Beginnings),” Bemis Center For Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE (2016). Her work is in the permanent collection of the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.


The artists’ residencies with Residency Unlimited in Fall 2016 and this exhibition were made possible with support from a National Endowment for the Arts/Art Works grant and the Dedalus Foundation.
About Artists Equity and Equity Gallery

New York Artists Equity Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1947 by artists and art patrons with the mission to promote opportunities for artists. It operates Equity Gallery, an art space located on the Lower East Side of New York City. It simultaneously serves as a gallery for artists to exhibit and sell their work; a hub for professional workshops and innovative programming exploring critical issues of interest to artists and curators; and a gathering place for artists, curators and patrons. For more information, please visit www.nyartistsequity.org.

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Image: Liliya Lifanova, Bull Whip Drawing 2, (3 sessions), detail (2008), paper and safety pins © Liliya Lifanova

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