For immediate release

_Invisible Float_
MaryKate Maher

April 20 - May 21, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, April 21, 6-8 pm
Artist Talk: Friday, April 21, 6:30pm
DUMBO's First Thursday Art Walk: Thursday, May 4, 6-8pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce _Invisible Float_, an exhibition of sculptures by Fellowship Artist MaryKate Maher. This is Maher’s first solo exhibition in New York City.

In _Invisible Float_, Maher draws inspiration from two extreme climates with unique geology and ongoing environmental challenges: the deserts of California, near the Salton Sea, and the Icelandic tundra. Exploiting materials that reference landscape, Maher focuses on how we visually perceive open space as both flat and dimensional.

By using mostly thin planes to create her sculptures, Maher plays with expectations of form, and disrupts perceptions of volume and weight. She manipulates her materials to obscure their origins: resins are cast, sanded and weathered to look like stone; a patinated copper surface reveals itself to be concrete and foam. The work favors a particular range of hues that blends beige, black and acid yellow, mimicking a semi-natural, mineral-rich palette.

In this current body of work, Maher presents intimate, pedestal-based pieces that play slyly with formal expectations. She combines her personal vernacular (eroded textures, horizon lines, standing stones and monoliths) with that of canonical sculptors whose works explore abstraction, minimalism and land-based practice. Maher references this history of the monumental while rendering in an intimate scale.

The viewer will find photographs of color gradients inlaid into the surface of many of the works. From a distance, this reads as a recess or void. By creating these subtle illusions, the surfaces glow and vibrate, alluding to the light of the sky or refractions on the horizon. In the exhibition, one finds repeated shapes and surfaces: ethereal ovals, corrugated structures, and unexpected interruptions. Like a stutter, these repetitions operate as a question or a word reiterated again and again until it carries new currency.

This project is supported in part by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant.

For more on the artist, visit www.marykatemaher.com.

Now in its 24th year, A.I.R.'s Fellowship Program provides a year-long career development intensive for emerging and underrepresented women artists. Each year, six artists join the gallery as honorary members. The program includes a solo show, a community-based project, workshops with professionals in the field, studio visits, and life-long support and collaboration with the A.I.R. Community. To find out more about the program, please visit www.airgallery.org.

For all press inquiries, please contact; Roxana Fabius, Executive Director.
The gallery is wheelchair accessible.