

Private Collection

Stephen D'Onofrio, B. Chehayeb, Lori Larusso, Rachel Grobstein, Paho Mann

July 20 - August 24, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 20th. 7:30-10pm

Galleri Urbane is delighted to present the gallery's summer group exhibition, titled *Private Collection*. Curated by Director of Exhibitions Adrian Zuniga and situated across the gallery's two main exhibition spaces, *Private Collection* considers the act of collecting and its accompanying personal and social implications. Including represented artist Stephen D'Onofrio and visiting artists B. Chehayeb, Paho Mann, Lori Larusso, and Rachel Grobstein, the exhibition acknowledges that the objects and experiences we collect can serve as reflections of ourselves and society at large. Through a variety of approaches, each artist addresses a unique mode of collecting, exploring both personal and shared cultural phenomena that are relevant to contemporary life.

Stephen D'Onofrio's work most directly addresses the act of collecting associated with the modern art market. A number of newly-produced canvases take interest in the Still Life genre of painting and its trajectory from 17th-century Dutch Masters to assembly-line production in today's consumer-driven economy. D'Onofrio's own meticulously painted still life canvases mimic and exaggerate the tropes of present-day commercial design and its highly curated formalism, highlighting the shifting nature of collectable art objects in a mass-produced world. Paho Mann's series of archival pigment prints are produced using low-grade 3D scanning technology to scan a variety of personal objects, including a collection of historic stereoscopic cameras. The consumer-quality technology provides an exploded version of these objects, with each exploded camera becoming a metaphor for the constant transition of photographic technology and the use of new technologies to comment on increasingly obsolete formats of image making. Overall, Mann considers the role played by emerging technologies in shaping the way we "observe and make meaning from mass-produced objects and personal keepsakes."

Objects collected to define the domestic setting are found in Lori Larusso's shaped paintings. Painted images depict cut-outs of objects found in domestic scenes, from kitchen counters to mailboxes, and become graphic depictions of bourgeoisie domesticity as fantasy. Larusso is inspired by the idealized spreads in mid-century publications, like *Good Housekeeping*, and draws connections to contemporary versions of curated domesticity on platforms like Instagram. Her paintings invite us to consider the link between the domestic objects we surround ourselves with and aspirations for perfection, especially as it pertains to women. Also utilizing objects collected in the home, Rachel Grobstein's *Bedside Tables* series includes detailed miniature recreations of the objects that inhabit people's nightstands. The recreated piles of books, electronics, and cosmetics offer biographical snapshots of their owner. On a more universal scale, her series of miniature cut paper paintings depict the "junk" of everyday life in a seemingly floating constellation. These works are driven by research on "how space junk is rapidly accumulating in the earth's atmosphere, where it's out of sight like garbage in landfills but not gone."

B. Chehayeb's work examines a more introspective act of collecting. A recent series of gestural, abstract paintings titled *Conversations in a Crowded Room (50 Poems)* reflects the attempt to preserve ephemeral memories and experiences. Through a series of 50 paintings, Chehayeb captures

abstracted forms of the events taking place around her, recalling people's skin, clothing, hair, and even the accompanying sounds of her surroundings. Each painting is titled after specific occasions, a tribute to the act of being present and collecting moments from everyday life.

Stephen D'Onofrio is a contemporary visual artist focused in painting. His work is characterized by an interest in the home decor market, the mass commodification of art, and the generic visual language that accompanies commercial design. He received his MFA from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 2016 and his work has been placed in numerous private and public collections since. D'Onofrio has lived and worked in Philadelphia since being awarded an artist residency in the city at Jasper Studios in 2017.

Paho Mann received a BFA from the University of New Mexico in 2001 and an MFA from Arizona State University in 2007. Currently, Mann lives and works in Dallas, Texas where he is an Associate Professor of Photography at the University of North Texas. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Arizona State University Art Museum (Tempe, AZ), Tucson Museum of Art (Tucson, AZ), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) and the Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, PA) among others. Mann's work is included in the collections of the Tucson Museum of Art, the Museum at Texas Tech University, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, and the City of Phoenix Public Art Program.

Lori Larusso earned her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) graduate interdisciplinary program, the Mount Royal School of Art and a BFA from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP). She maintains a rigorous studio practice and has consistently exhibited work in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. Lori has been awarded numerous residency fellowships including the Sam & Adele Golden Foundation, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Willapa Bay AiR, The Studios of Key West, and the MacDowell Colony. She was recently named the 2019 South Arts Kentucky State Fellow.

Rachel Grobstein is a Brooklyn-based visual artist. She is currently an artist in residence at the Museum of Arts and Design. She has had solo exhibitions at Next to Nothing Gallery (New York, NY, 2018), Andrew Rafacz Gallery (Chicago, IL, 2018), the Roswell Museum and Art Center (Roswell, N, 2017), and This Friday or Next Friday (Brooklyn, NY, 2015). Other exhibitions include Ulterior Gallery, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, David & Schweitzer Contemporary and Arcilesi & Homberg Fine Art. Awards and residencies include a Roswell Artist-in-Residence Fellowship, a Jentel Foundation Foundation, a Hammersley Foundation Grant, and a Vermont Studio Center Full Fellowship and Residency supported by the Joan Mitchell Foundation. She received her MFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and her BA in Philosophy and Visual Arts from Bowdoin College.

B. Chehayeb is a contemporary visual artist whose work closely orbits themes of memory, identity and time. Her recent painting installations are characterized by gestural abstractions referencing the histories of people, places and sounds. Chehayeb is currently a working artist in Boston, Massachusetts completing her MFA at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Her paintings, drawings and assemblage pieces are in numerous private collections and publications across the the country.