

Artist John Lark

They Already Had, and Had What's Everything November 6-19

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 6-8 PM

Van der Plas Gallery, 156 Orchard Street New York, NY 10002

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Contact: Nicole Lania, 156 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002 (212) 227-8983

LES Artist to Have First Solo Show

Artist John Lark in association with Van der Plas Gallery will be presenting: *They Already Had, and Had What's Everything*, his debut solo exhibition. This exhibition comes after Lark's participation in *ALL ART +*, at the Van der Plas Gallery. Director, Adriaan Van der Plas says of his work, "There might be things you immediately like. Look at other things that bother you and agitate you. Things you don't like are probably things that challenge the brain." Van der Plas' statement speaks to the layered nature of the show.

Lark presents a mix of the familiar, largely images from his upbringing in Lansing, Michigan interspersed with fragmented and at times erotic depictions of the human body. The mélange of flesh and nostalgia creates tension. Flashes of flesh in the heat of desire are repeated until they lose all meaning. This speaks to the generative nature of art as well as an on-the-nose nod to the acts of sexual reproduction taking place on the canvas.

His work entitled "5" depicts fragments of a woman foregrounded by the images of homes from Lark's native, Lansing. Not only is the sex reproductive but also the homes, they become literal reproductions built to house the exploding populations of returning G.I's and their young families in postwar America. The theme of propagation does not end with sex and housing. Michigan is home to various other forms of production from agriculture to the automotive industry, which is echoed in the layers of Lark's work.

This notion of propagation and recreation was inspired in some part by Bataille's 1931, surrealist text, *The Solar Anus*, which speaks directly to ideas of fragmentation and repetition. He asserts that, "Love and life appear to be separate only because everything on earth is broken apart by vibrations." In this context, Lark's expansive canvases are not a profane, male centric gaze upon the female body but a conflation of space and time that may be more accurate and expansive than reality.

Lark is a Michigan native, born in 1982. He graduated from University of Michigan in 2005 with a BFA. He moved to New York City in 2007 to complete a post-baccalaureate at Columbia University, followed by an MFA, completed at the New York Academy of Art in 2012. This is Lark's first solo show.

--Nicole Lania

