
New Collectors Presents *Salon #1*, The Gallery's Second Exhibition August 27 - September 26

Opening Reception: Friday,
August 27, 6–8pm



This exhibition came together with an open call. There were no thematic or aesthetic guidelines to follow, but two resounding themes rose to the surface: human intervention in—and memories of—the environment: both physical and sentimental, personal and collective.

Alice Gong and Kaijie Chen work with materials that have their own natural forces. In *flour + water*, Gong uses a traditional Chinese cooking technique that involves working with raw dough. The labor-intensive process results in a product that is consumed shortly after. Folding dough in this way requires an understanding of the way gluten tightens and relaxes, but it is ultimately unpredictable. Temperature, humidity, and time determining the cooperation of the material.

In her *Untitled* series, Chen uses materials from her Surface Imaging Design background: iron and magnets. The magnetic forces determine the composition of the finished piece, something that she embraces, as it opposes the "forced nature" that humans often try to achieve with new technologies. Both artists also choose to freeze these processes in time, Gong with cast iron and Chen with resin. This way of preserving the materials allows us to contemplate their status in a given moment.

James Warren and Maximilian Thuemler reflect on human intervention in landscapes. The imposition of white, European ideals, and "manifest destiny" are themes that both artists explore. Warren often uses photographs from public digital image archives, which do not provide authors or context. By reinterpreting these unknown images into abstracted landscape paintings, he adds an additional layer of separation between the viewer and the "original" landscape from the photograph. Warren "is interested in understanding 'landscape' and 'wilderness' as cultural constructions and investigative where we situate ourselves in relation to them."

New Collectors

In his piece, *Circumambulating / Running Myself Into the Ground*, Thuemler investigates how landscape holds onto local legacies, focusing on the coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia, vaguely defined points of Black origin in the United States. The tradition of landscape art has been dominated by romantic interpretations of land and nature. By performing the act of circling around a specific point, Thuemler "reinvigorates a silent expanse of land with gestures derived from history's Eurocentric relationship to blackness."

This show comes at a moment while we, as a society, are beginning to reconcile how our socioeconomic status and geographic location will determine our fate in the face of (un)natural events. In turn, it also serves as an early indicator of how, while the future become increasingly dire, artists will continue to create and share.

Artists in the show include Alice Gong, Fanni Somogyi, James Warren, Kaijie Chen, Lita Poliakova, Maximilian Thuemler, Paul Mok, Ryan Rennie, and Sally Lewis.

Visit:
New Collectors
191 Henry St, New York, NY 10002

Hours:
Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6

Connect:
@newcollectorsgallery

For more information and press inquiries contact:
Sibilla Maiarelli, Founder & Director
sibilla@newcollectorsgallery.com

New Collectors
