



Here and Now

Curatorial Statement

Putting together an exhibition is always an adventure. In the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become – as much else in the world – a different kind of exploration. My choices were based on works that I had seen over the past few years that stuck in my mind. Simply put, they were memorable and left a last impression. Some of the artists I had written about, some were in MFA programs that I was invited to visit, some I had known for years and had written about, some I only recently found out about and saw. Otherwise I had no agenda. I made up lists of artists whose work I had seen and thought should be in the exhibition. Some names just kept coming back, even as I made new and different lists. My aesthetic criterion was simple. I wanted to focus on artists whose work said something unmistakable. It could be done in any medium.

Although they explored different mediums and use a variety of processes and materials, the one thing the artists in *Here and Now* have in common is that they made it. During this lockdown and the shuttering of many businesses, I have become even more interested in artists who in solitude make something only they are capable of creating without necessarily knowing in advance that an audience will see what they have done. This sense of urgency and necessity exists largely outside the well-known domain of readymade images and the replication of aspects of Pop culture. Without recycling images derived from the mass media, the artists in *Here and Now* address a wide range of issues.

I wanted to have no preconceptions as to what would be in the exhibition. I would not make the decision. The work would make the final choices for me. It would make a strong impact, make me look again, become in some way unforgettable. It would push me into new places and offer me different and fresh perspectives. I take full responsibility for my choices, just as all the artists in this exhibition stand by what they have made.