

**Come Together**  
**January 13 – March 24, 2019**  
**(Exhibition Opening January 13 12-5pm)**



Rubén Ortiz Torres, installation view of 'Reunificación Familiar', Mexico, 2018

Royale Projects is pleased to announce 'Come Together', a group exhibition featuring Karen Lofgren, Ken Lum, Joel Otterson and Rubén Ortiz Torres, opening Sunday January 13 and running through March 24.

John Lennon and George Harrison first experimented with LSD, unexpectedly, at a dinner party in the spring of 1965. The use of psychedelic drugs was a milestone in the Beatles career, transforming everything from their sound and influences to their public perception and personalities. Shortly after, Timothy Leary, a counter-culture psychologist known for his research of the therapeutic benefits of psychoactive substances, approached Lennon to write a campaign song for his ill-fated run for governor against Ronald Reagan. While Lennon struggled with writing the song, Leary was arrested for possession of marijuana, abruptly ending his political career. The singer-songwriter took his fragmented draft to the band and, from this, birthed a number-one hit of collaged nonsensical verses that is "Come Together". This exhibition consists of works that similarly, force obscure ideas and disparate mediums to come together into profoundly bizarre yet impactful singular objects.

Lofgren merges Fascinare, ancient Roman warrior amulets based on the phallus, with fig signs, or mano fica, an offensive gesture also resembling a woman's anatomy. Juxtaposing these cast metal sculptures are clippings of women from erotic magazines mounted to sandpaper that the artist delicately censors with various medicinal plants. In Lum's *Tracy Bond Meets Pepe Pig*, a painted logo is spliced with a strange photograph of a child meeting a furry pink mascot for a pizza parlor wearing a sombrero. Eliminating the dividing line between stereotypical gender roles, another bizarre amalgamation is found in Otterson's work that combines domestic handicraft with sculptural traditions utilizing materials such as iron, wood and leather often associated with masculinity. Ortiz Torres reconfigures contrasting elements from various piñatas into uncanny, ghoulish characters while another cycle of deconstruction and construction is revealed as photographs of the sculptures are cut-out and arranged into intriguing compositions.

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Karen Lofgren (b. 1976-) a Fulbright Core Scholar at University of Arts London, Central St. Martins College in 2017/2018, has exhibited at venues including Espacio Puasa Lima, Peru; the Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions; Pitzer Art Galleries, Claremont; PØST, Los Angeles; Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Vancouver Biennale and Ontario College of Art and Design in Canada. The artist has a permanent installation, also published as a book, titled Trajectory Object c. 2000-2050 produced with Andrea Zittle of High Desert Test Sights located in Pioneertown, CA. Lofgren was recently awarded a 2019/2020 Pollock-Krasner grant.

Ken Lum (b. 1956-) has exhibited at the Swiss Institute, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC; National Gallery of Canada, Ontario; Witte de With, Rotterdam, Netherlands; the Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada and Kunsthalle Wien in Vienna, Austria. His work was included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, the 2008 Gwangju Biennale, the 2007 Istanbul Biennial, Documenta XI and the 1995 and 2001 Venice Biennales.

Joel Otterson (b. 1959-) is included in the permanent collections of The Broad Foundation, Los Angeles; Cincinnati Art Museum, OH; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan and Jewish Museum, New York. Otterson has exhibited at Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.

Rubén Ortiz Torres (b. 1964-) is a part of significant collections internationally including Los Angeles County Museum of Contemporary Art; Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico City; Museum of Modern Art, New York and Tate Modern, London. Since his recent solo exhibition at Royale Projects, as a participating gallery of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, works have been added to the permanent collections of Phoenix Art Museum; Palm Springs Art Museum; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

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