

Double Take
October 5 – October 27, 2019
(Exhibition Opening October 5 6-9pm)

Royale Projects is pleased to announce *Double Take: Jen Aitken x Karen Lofgren* and *Double Take: Alejandro Diaz x Ken Lum* opening October 5th and running through October 27th.

Double Take explores the aesthetic and conceptual intersections of a dyad of artists from the gallery's program. This larger themed exhibition will continue to closely examine various pairings comparing and contrasting their practices through specific bodies of work.

Jen Aitken x Karen Lofgren

Jen Aitken observes the built environment applying architectural shapes, textures, and colors to her own practice. Drawings on black gesso-coated vellum utilize intuitive, geometric mark making with white acrylic. The artist continuously re-works the original gestures by covering up lines in order to surface contours of forms that then influence her large-scale concrete sculptures.

Aitken received her MFA in 2014 from the University of Guelph in Ontario, and her BFA in 2010 from Emily Carr University in Vancouver. She was the 2017 recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation and TD Bank Emerging Visual Artist Award, and has received grants from the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto; Towards Gallery, Toronto; YYY Artists' Outlet, Toronto; Battat Contemporary, Montreal; and Centre Clark, Montreal.

Karen Lofgren plays with perception through unusual and diversified elements with a focus on process and material. *Approaching the Limbless Gods* began with research on interactions with ancient Roman cult statuary in which believers would ascribe a living and breathing condition to objects through daily dialogue and ritual action. Over time, through various causes, these god bodies began to deteriorate or were cast aside and left to rot. Demonstrating inverse gestures of these broken forms, Lofgren's wood and resin sculptures trace women's bodies and repeat actions thousands of times over to construct vessels that suggest absent worship.

Lofgren, a Fulbright Core Scholar at University of Arts London, Central St. Martins College in 2017/2018, has exhibited at venues including Palm Springs Art Museum; Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, CA; Pitzer Art Galleries, Claremont, CA; Royal College of Art, London, U.K.; Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Vancouver Biennale, Canada; and Ontario College of Art and Design, Canada. She has a permanent installation, also published as a book, titled "Trajectory Object c. 2000-2050", produced with Andrea Zittel of High Desert Test Sites, located in Pioneertown, CA. Her projects have received support from the Mike Kelley Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Canada Council for the Arts; West of Rome Public Art; The Ranch Projects; the U.S./U.K. Fulbright Commission; and the Pollock Krasner Foundation.

Alejandro Diaz x Ken Lum

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Alejandro Diaz reveals boundaries of class and race while empowering his Mexican-American culture through humble materials and common household items. Diaz challenges the preconceived notions of culture, society, and status through humor infused politics and his ongoing involvement with art as a form of entertainment, activism, and free enterprise.

Diaz has exhibited at the Rhode Island Museum of Art, Providence; RI; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ; Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; Aldridge Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; and Museo Del Barrio, New York, NY. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Rhode Island Museum of Art, Providence, RI; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; Fundación/Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico; St Gallen's University, St Gallen, Switzerland and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.

Ken Lum explores issues of identity, immigration, language, and spatial politics through a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, performance, video, photography and critical writing. Lum's Path Chart Series uses pie charts and various graphs with minimal text raising questions that are left unanswered and prompting viewers to decipher potential solutions to universal concerns.

Lum's work has been widely exhibited since the 1970's in venues including the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA; Swiss Institute, New York, NY; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC; National Gallery of Canada, Ontario, Canada; Witte de With, Rotterdam, Netherlands; the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada and Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria. He was included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, the 2008 Gwangju Biennale, the 2007 Istanbul Biennial, Documenta XI and the 1995 and 2001 Venice Biennales. The artist's work is in the public collections of National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada; Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; Centro de Arte Contemporáneo De Huarte, Navarro, Spain; FRAC Ile de France, le Plateau, Paris, France; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; Elaine Cohen Collection, New York, NY.