



len beller
every each



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every each

april 26th - may 19th, 2019



A Thing's Thingness

We are extremely excited to present Len Bellinger's show, every each. After decades of painting in anonymity and developing a singular, complex language all his own, I believe this current body of work places Bellinger directly in conversation with the most authentic, original abstraction being done at this moment.

To achieve this, Bellinger uses all kinds of eccentric materials including but not limited to plaster, glue, metal, etching ink, modeling paste, staples, sawdust, gold leaf, pumice, watercolor, ink and oil. He draws inspiration from great literature (Joyce especially), is endlessly fascinated with cosmology and the night sky, finds solace in the awkward geometry of medieval and pre-renaissance painting, is enamored with the solemnity and presence of Byzantine art, and of course there is always Goya and Piero lurking in the shadows. Along with his love of early minimal material-based painting, all of it culminates in a wild chaotic brew that is the essence of Joyce's 'thingness'. Bellinger's great intellectual curiosity and passion for painting is at the heart and soul of his work. It's why he's creating some of the most powerful work being done today.

Bellinger chose to title this exhibition every each (a follow up to last year's exhibition painting notes), a quick turn of words culled from Joyce's Ulysses. Joyce's endlessly entertaining and thought provoking word play manages to take everyday common phrasing like 'each and every' and by simply reversing their order, manages to add an additional layer of poignancy.

The reversal of these two words puts a heavier emphasis on the "each" element, giving the singular identity of "each" an even greater emphasis on individuality.

This is particularly relevant with this group of paintings as this show includes work from a few different ongoing series, some decades old, whose individual concerns involving imagery, material, and conceptual underpinnings range vastly.

Each series of paintings is imbued with its own unique history, internal structure and means of paint application, and each ultimately comes across as unique universes in and of themselves. Thus "every each" - from his reproduction based 'repro' paintings and drawings with imagery derived from various periods throughout art history, and his 'ttm.marga' series which explores the surreal shadows in Goya's 'tauromaquia' etchings, to a fantastic sculpture from his ongoing 'mob' series (a logical extension of his wall reliefs), all of it resulting in work that's a cross somewhere between Louise Bourgeois, Jim Dine and Goya.

As Bill Brown writes in his essay "Thing Theory":

"We begin to confront the thingness of objects when they stop working for us: when the drill breaks, when the car stalls, when the window gets filthy, when their flow within the circuits of production and distribution, consumption and exhibition, has been arrested, however momentarily. The story of objects asserting themselves as things, then, is the story of a changed relationship to the human subject and thus the story of how the thing really names less an object than a particular subject-object relation. As they circulate through our lives, we look through objects (to see what they disclose about history, society, nature, or culture - above all, what they disclose about us), but we only catch a glimpse of things."

Bellinger belongs in the company of Mark Bradford, Forrest Bess, Daniel John Gadd, Brenda Goodman, Rosy Keyser, Sterling Ruby, and Jack Whitten. They all deconstruct the original meanings and use their materials to create a more contemporary view of abstract theories and practices. These artists infuse abstraction with a deeply personal meaning and place themselves directly

in the crosshairs of the 21st century and the outside world. By slowing down the viewers' read of work through a handmade, deconstructed, and recontextualized use of material and form, this brand of abstraction subverts the speed of human dissociation we all share these days. Thereby, returning abstraction to a revolutionary form of aesthetic entropy.

For over four decades, Len Bellinger quietly, tirelessly, and brilliantly has been re-asserting the individual, the human touch, and humanity expressed by that touch - a thing's thingness.

Michael David - Arist/ Curator

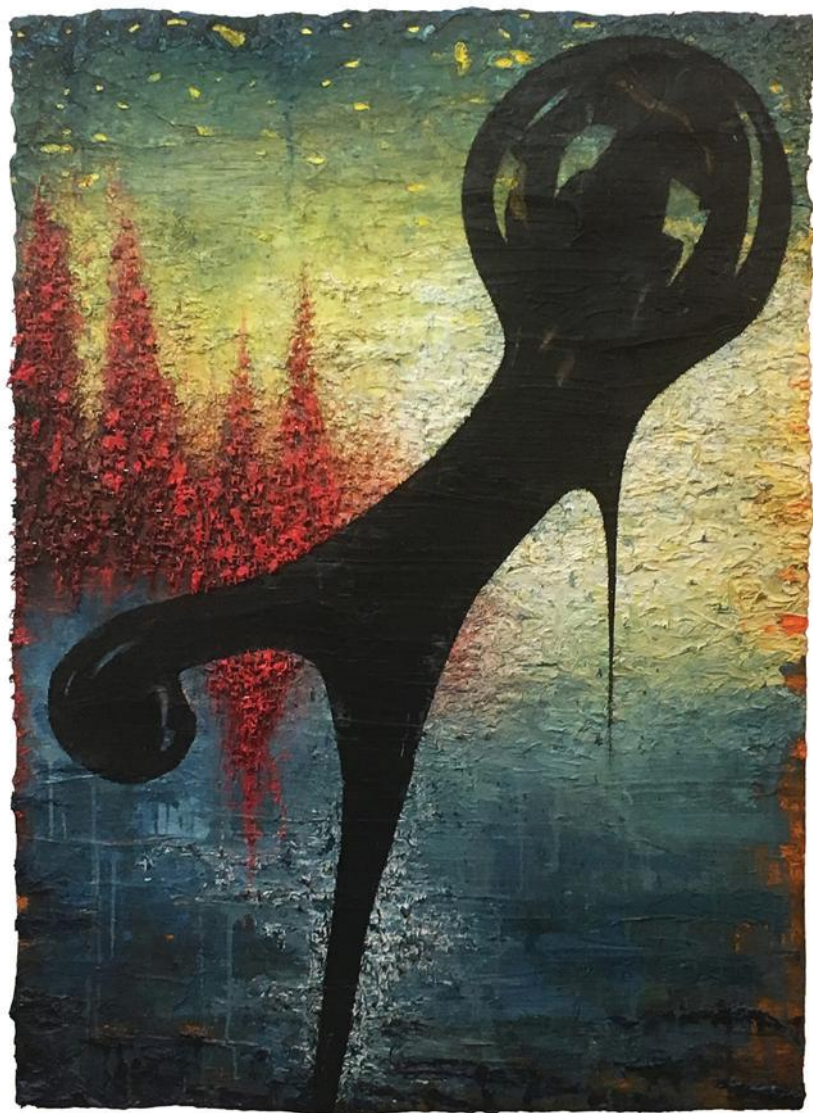
“god becomes man becomes fish becomes barnacle goose becomes featherbed mountain.”
james joyce, ulysses

kinch

57" x 43"

oil, acrylic, plaster, staples on canvas mounted on wood

2017-19



upnatm

64" x 51" oil on canvas
2015-17



lotus eater

96" x 72"

oil, metal, fabric, glue, staples, canvas on canvas

1997-2019



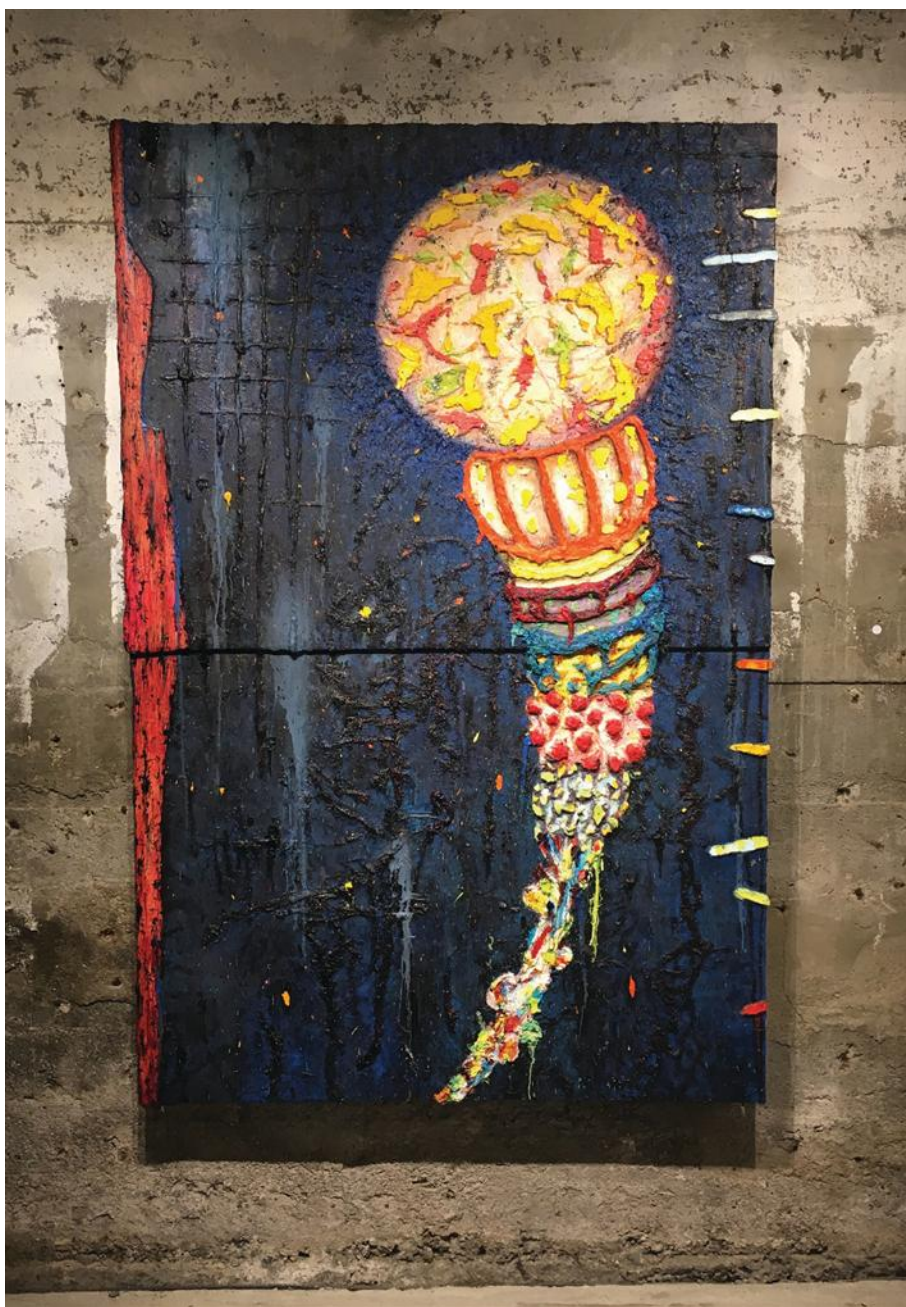
usurper

76" x 50.5"

oil, etching ink, staples on canvas 2015-18

installation photo

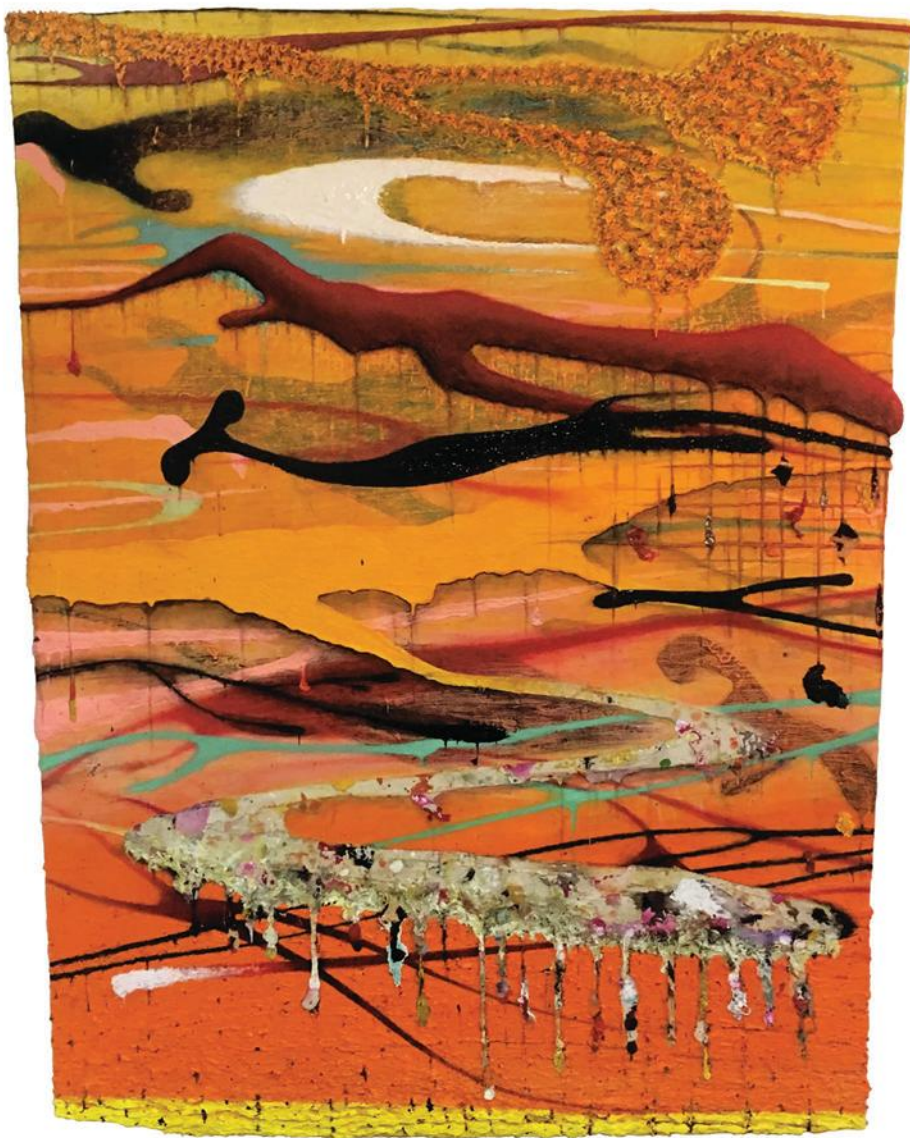
'remise' john davis gallery september 2018



ttm.marga

81" x 63"

oil, acrylic, staples, glue, fabric on canvas mounted on wood
2016-19



ttm.marga

79" x 62.5"

oil, acrylic, gold leaf, etching ink, plaster, fabric on canvas

1999-2003



ttm.marga

23.75" x 19.75"

oil, acrylic, plaster on canvas mounted on wood

2016-19



bignet

28" x 23" x 6"

oil, acrylic, etching ink, staples on canvas

2015-18



aeolus

25" x 20.5"

oil, staples, palette paper on homasote

2017-18



coffin thoughts

20.5" x 18.5"

oil, etching ink, acrylic, glue, staples on homasote

2016-19



the ree

18" x 24" x 3"

oil, staples on canvas

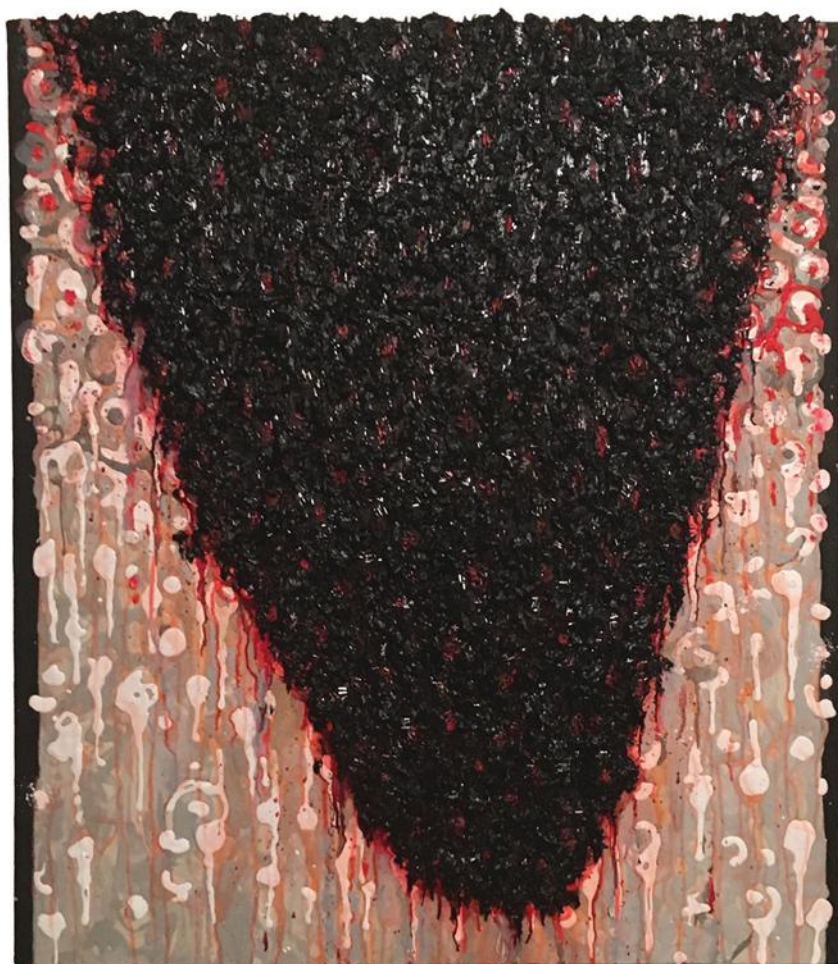
1992-2019



the roo

42.5" x 37"

oil, acrylic, staples, glue, plaster on canvas 2017-18

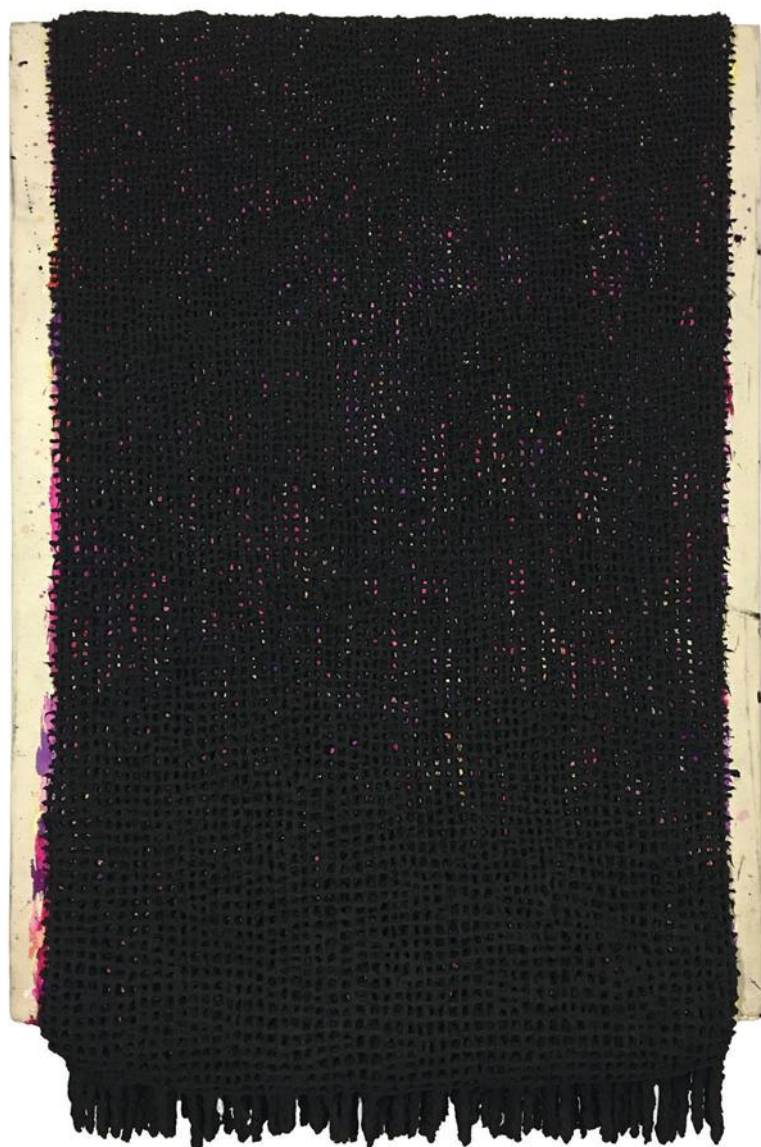


vertical mob

47" x 30"

acrylic, ink, gesso, plaster, modeling paste on canvas mounted on wood

2017-19

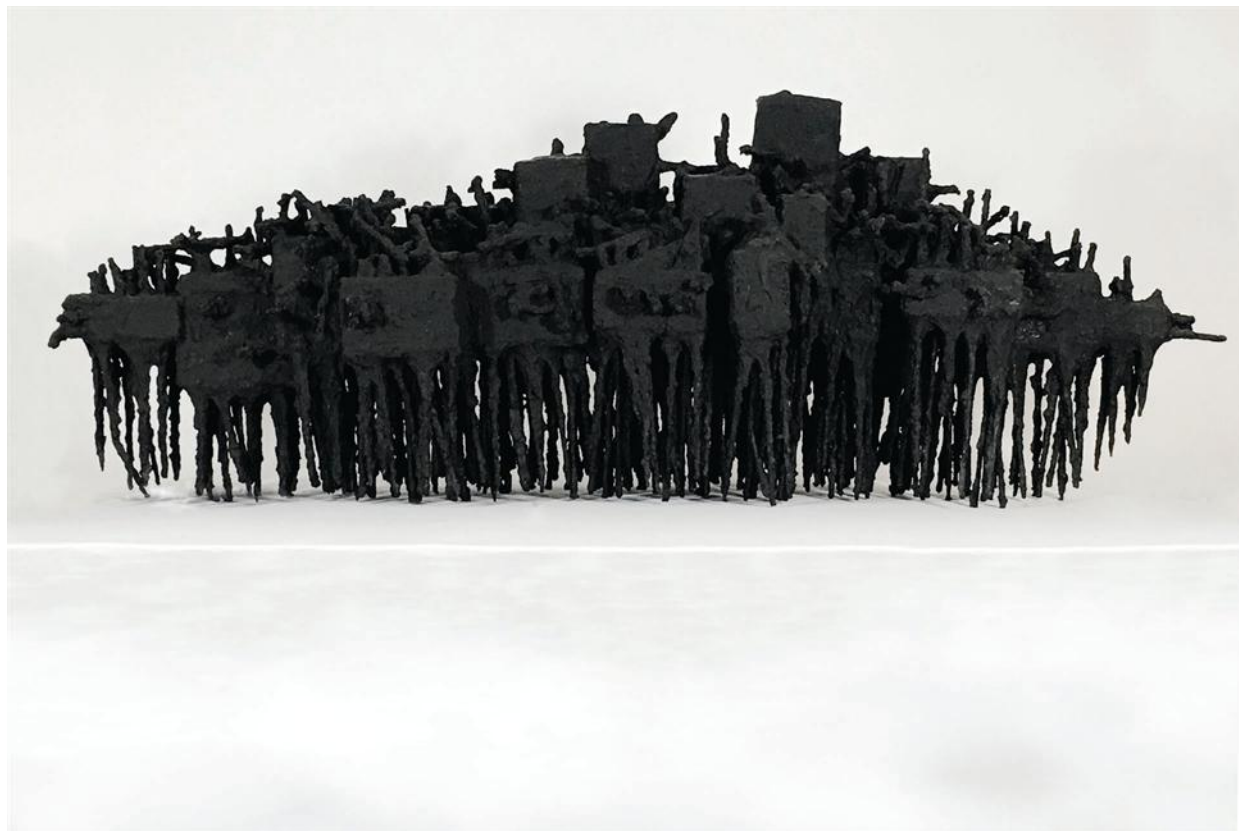


mob

47" x 15" x 15"

plaster, glue, modeling paste, styrofoam, wood

2017-18

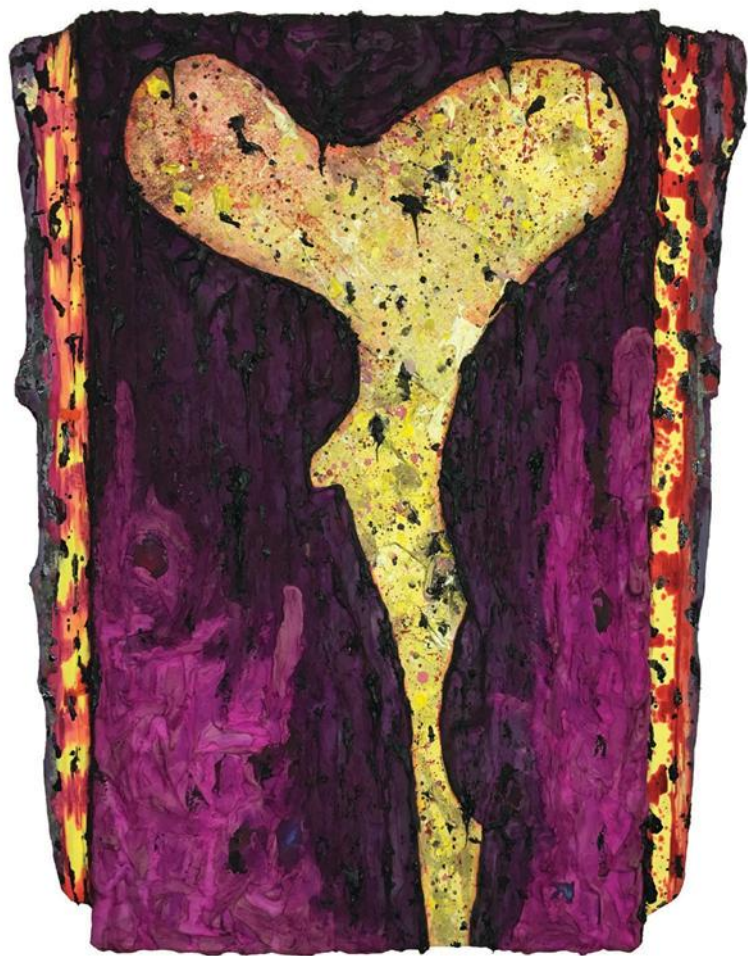


jemez

20.5" x 16"

oil, etching ink, acrylic, watercolor, ink, plaster, repro on wood

2018-19



koshare

22.5" x 17.5"

oil, acrylic, ink, watercolor, modeling paste, glue on repro mounted on wood

2018-19



sheba

42" x 35"

oil, acrylic, plaster, watercolor, ink, glue, staples on repro mounted on wood

2018-19



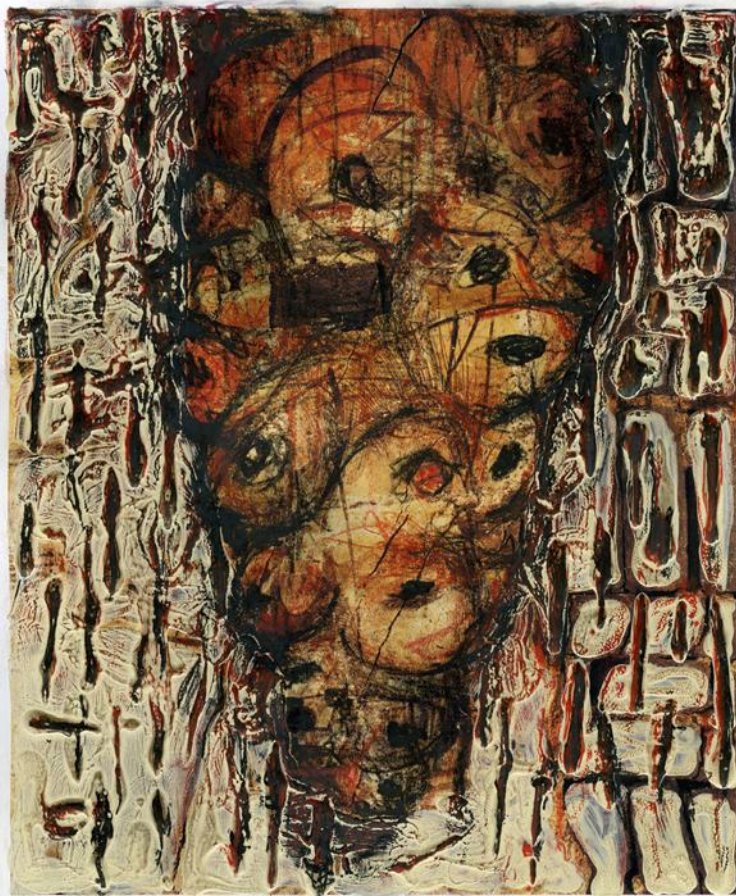
recent repro drawings

rui

6.75" x 5.25"

china marker on repro

2018



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Yui

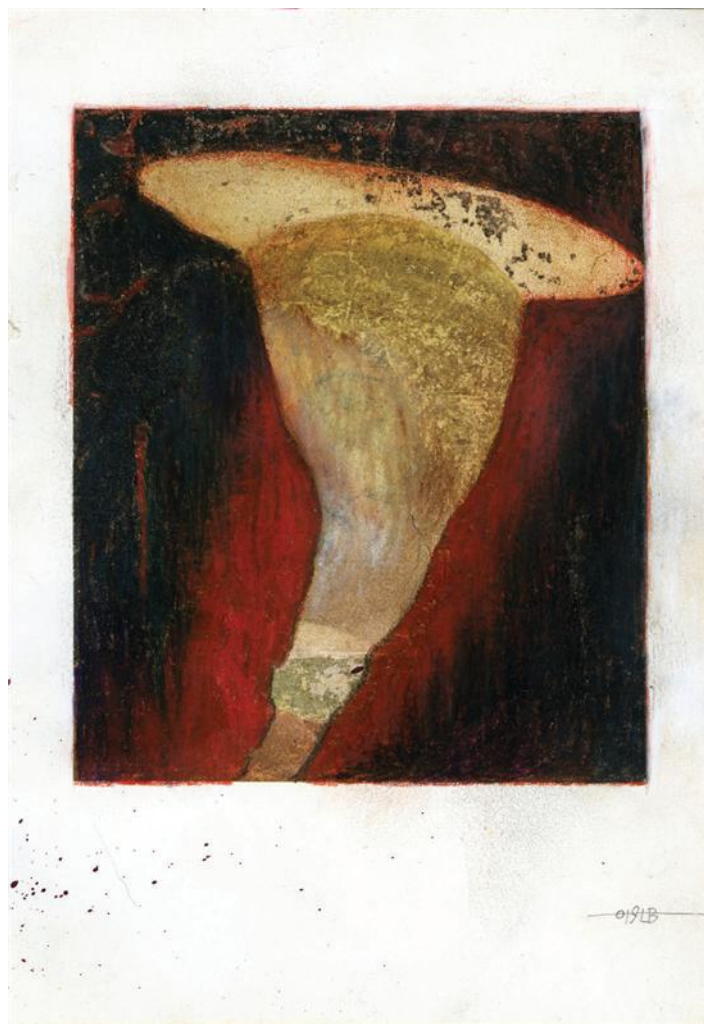
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pdf

9.5" x 6.75"

china marker on repro

2019

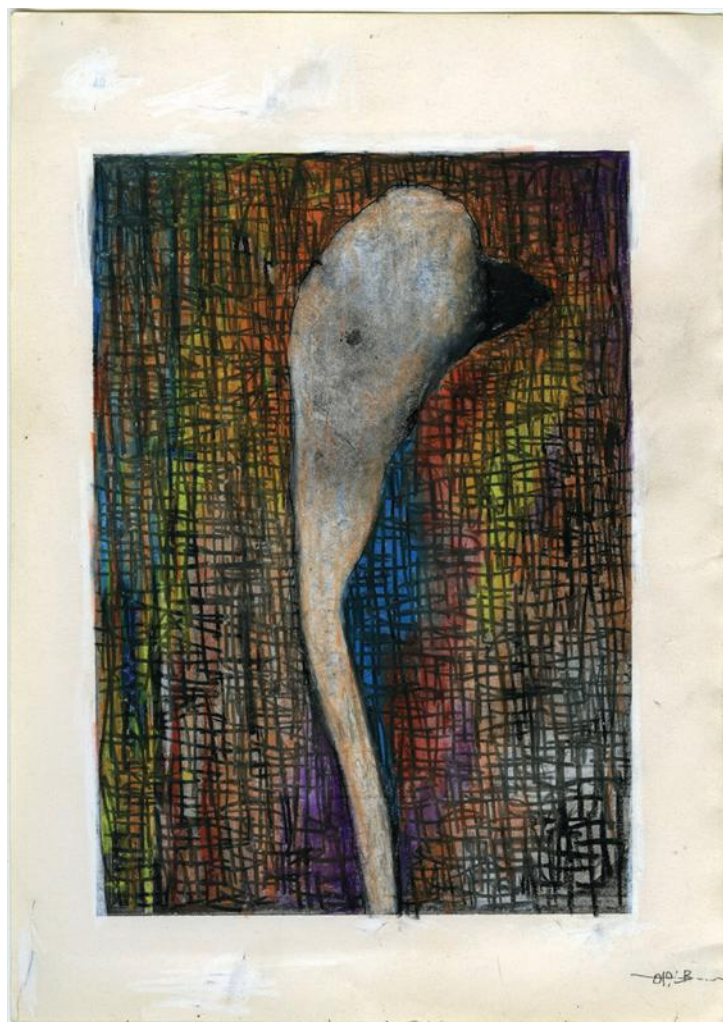


sophie

9.25" x 6.5"

china marker on repro

2019



saltimbanques

8.25" x 6.75"

china marker on repro

2018

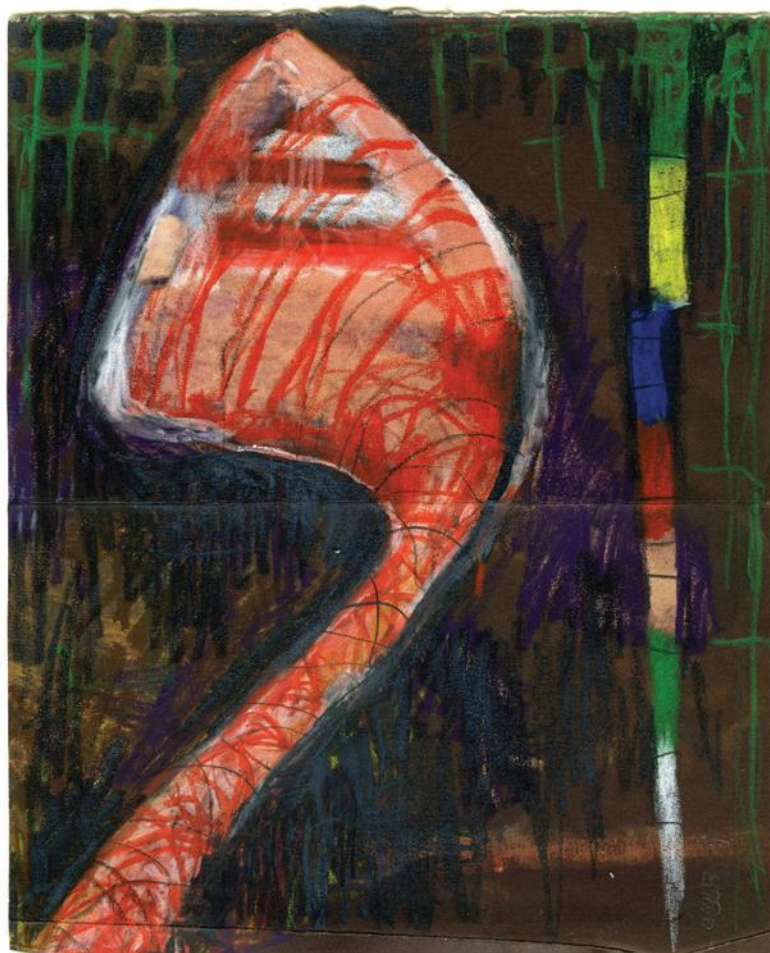


saltimbanque

8.25" x 6.75"

china marker on repro

2018



lure

6.75" x 4.5"

china marker on repro

2018



lure

6.75" x 4.5"

china marker on repro

2018



blroom

8.25" x 6.75"

china marker on repro

2018

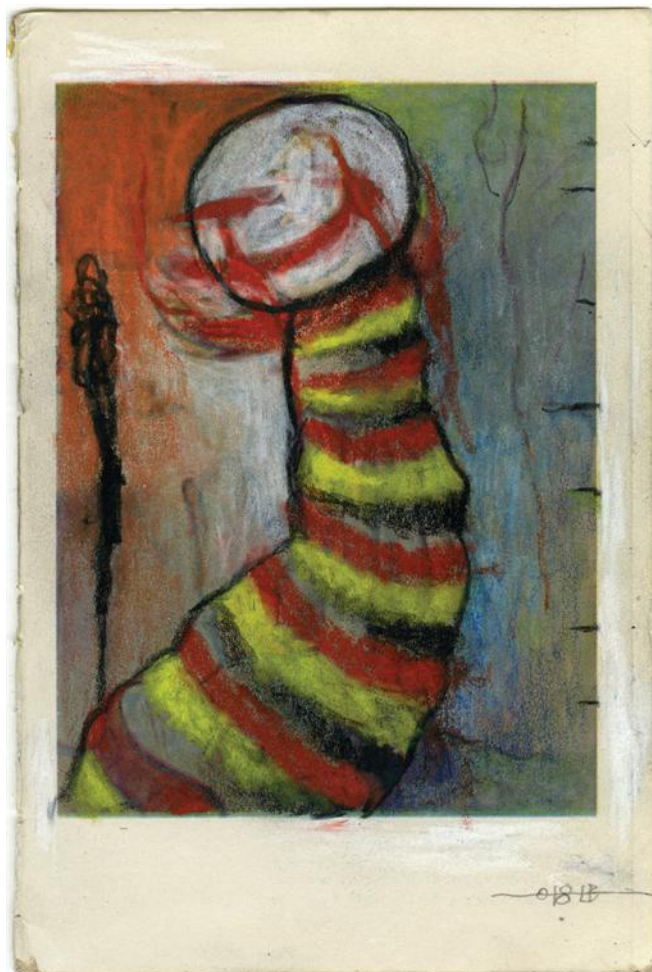


gour

6.75" x 4.5"

china marker on repro

2018



compo

7" x 5"

china marker on repro

2018

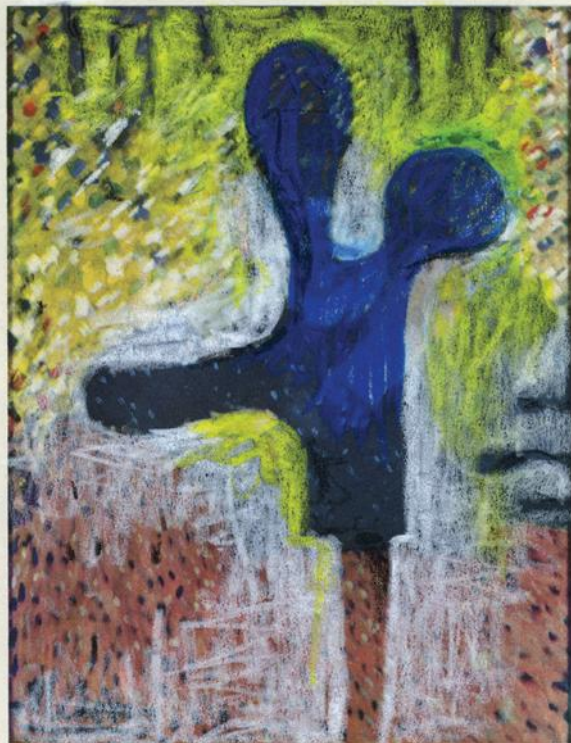


99

6.75" x 4.5"

china marker on repro

2018



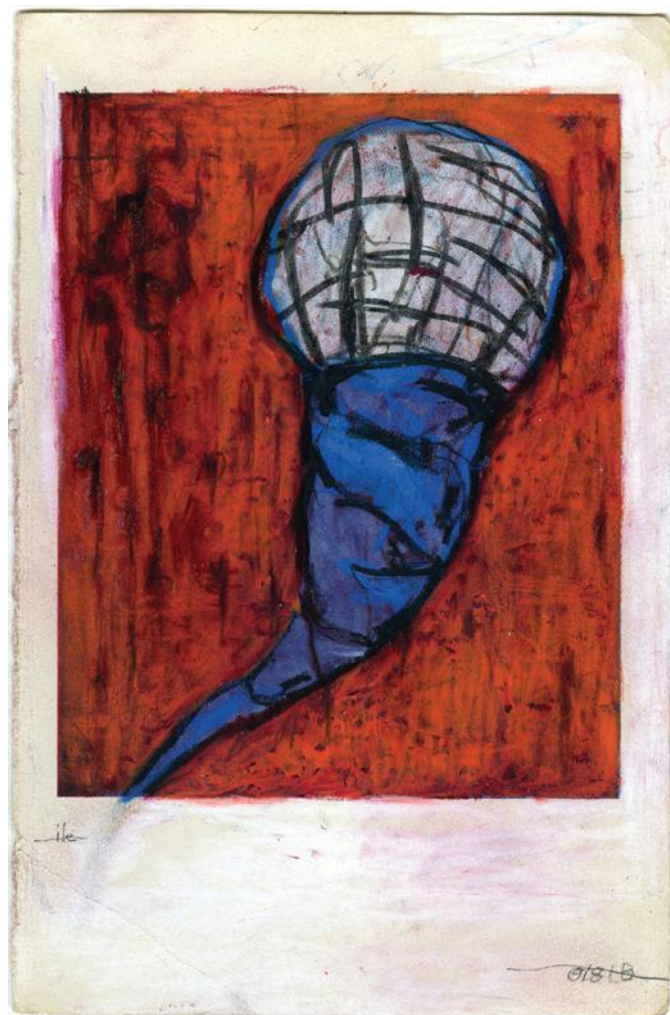
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ile

6.75" x 4.5"

china marker on repro

2018



hongen cunli

4.5" x 4.25"

china marker on repro

2018





selected exhibitions

2019

every each m.david & co. brooklyn, ny
 cosi via centotto brooklyn, ny
 among friends the clemente new york, ny

2018

len bellinger: remise john davis gallery hudson, ny
 len bellinger: painting notes (1993-2018) david & schweitzer contemporary brooklyn, ny
 a montage of heck m.david & co. brooklyn, ny
 leaving a mark: bushwick open studios 2018 m.david studio brooklyn, ny
 chain reaction: artists select artists the painting center new york, ny
 among friends dumbo open studios brooklyn, ny
 Sculpture56: Painting into Sculpture m.david studio brooklyn, ny
 odds and sods m.david studio brooklyn, ny
 the greatest show on earth: sideshow 7 sideshow gallery brooklyn, ny
 black friday 2 george gallery (lobo gallery collaboration) brooklyn, ny
 holiday group show LABspace hudson, ny

2017

len bellinger: thugs, miscreants and recent extractions david & schweitzer contemporary brooklyn, ny
 the yellow chair extravaganza david & schweitzer contemporary brooklyn, ny
 summer invitational david & schweitzer contemporary brooklyn, ny
 the flatfiles, dsc annex brooklyn, ny
 thru the rabbit hole 2 sideshow gallery brooklyn, ny

2016

seeking space david & schweitzer contemporary brooklyn, ny
 reality is wrong, dreams are for real m.davis studio/dsc annex brooklyn, ny
 an occasional dream life on mars gallery brooklyn, ny
 thru the rabbit hole sideshow gallery brooklyn, ny
 new morning space 776 brooklyn, ny

2015

summer invitational: portraits life on mars gallery brooklyn, ny
 mixtape 2 m. david studio brooklyn, ny
 verge 2012 new york, ny
 text 440 gallery brooklyn, ny
 stripped orbital gallery london, UK
 25th anniversary exhibition the drawing center new york, ny
 new drawing in america the drawing center new york, ny
 len bellinger/kit kuen kan kathryn markel gallery new york, ny
 new work/gallery artists kathryn markel gallery new york, ny
 gallery artists/navy pier art show kathryn markel gallery chicago, ill
 annual the queens museum queens, ny
 len bellinger/new paintings the alternative museum new york, ny
 uptown/downtown city gallery new york, ny
 paperworks the hudson river museum yonkers, ny
 religion into art pratt institute gallery (traveling exhibition) new york, ny
 rituals: sacred/secular the citicorp building/st. peter's church new york, ny
 selections/paperwork the drawing center new york, ny
 len bellinger/open studios p.s.1 (MoMA) queens, ny
 len bellinger/paintings and reproduction drawings p.s.1 (MoMA) queens, ny
 queens artists p.s.1 (MoMA) queens, ny
 four directions american indian community house gallery new york, ny
 invitational 55 mercer new york, ny
 14 painters lehman gallery the bronx, ny
 permanent collection: recent acquisitions the alternative museum new york, ny
 the international drawing biennial camden art center london, UK
 let there be light alternative center for international art new york, ny
 the detective show gorman park queens, ny
 agresti/bellinger lehman gallery the bronx, ny

