

Artist Statement

I often think of my work as a kind of gathering place. A collection of objects and marks sit at a dinner table: Things talk to people, people talk to things. There are arguments, flirtations, jokes. Each part and piece is independent, but should also mingle well.

In the studio, my choices are governed by a feeling for narrative. I move until stories are revealed and then make decisions informed by those stories. Colors pinch at one another, shapes become affectionate, a group of sculptures sit together until they become lusty or envious. The subtle movement from conversation to conversation, from personality to personality, is told in the transition between shapes and forms.

Though a story is discovered through the working process, the story is ongoing, and it remains open-ended, expanding or contracting through multiple frames. Small moments and gestures must work independently while also holding a place within ever-widening contexts. A sad figure sitting at a table tells a story. Her face, taken alone, tells a different story. A sculpture looks at her from across the room. A man looks at her and feels jealous of the sculpture. The viewer participates in the creation and discovery of these stories, forced to access meaning by deciphering between objects known and unknown, abstract and literal, foreign and familiar.

Throughout the process, I try to keep my movements spontaneous. A finished drawing sits first at the base of one assemblage, then becomes the backdrop for a different piece. A found-object offers me a new shape to work with, and becomes part of the life of the studio. Pieces meet and marry, living happily together — unless they realize it is not for the best, and grow apart. In the end, I hope to achieve an effect something like jazz — compositions that are both formally and structurally rigorous, but that nevertheless retain a sense of openness and improvisation.

In my own home my studio has begun to overflow into my domestic space, bringing ordinary and familiar objects into contact with the abstract and strange. In my recent work I have been creating large, site-specific installations that draw on this interaction, incorporating many individual pieces that, like an apartment (or an artwork), also cohere as a single thought.

I have been addressing the questions of installation for a number of years. I first drew objects in space, and then later used objects in space to create drawings. In a series of installations, I laid out objects that, when viewed at a specific angle, resolved into a single coherent image. When seen from a given viewpoint, these compositions acquired the flatness of a picture, creating a new relationship between drawing and sculpture.

Bio

leif low-Beer lives and works in Brooklyn Berlin and Toronto. his sculptures and drawings have been shown at galleries in the United States and Canada and Europe, including a solo shows at wild Project and Beginnings gallery in New York, Okay Mountain in Austin and Buffalo Arts Center in Buffalo. He has presented large-scale installations at Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens and, most recently had a Solo Show at Space 1026 in Philadelphia.

Leif Low-Beer

Grew up in Toronto, Canada. Lives and works in Brooklyn and Berlin.

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Selected Exhibitions

2019 Spring Break art fair, New York City.

2018 *Line Segment Where Two Faces Meet* (weight bearing and locomotive). Space1026, Philadelphia (Solo)

2017 *75 Works on Paper*. Beers London, London.

2017 *Small Moments*. Brilliant Champions, New York City.

2017 *To See Is To Have*. The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio.

2016 *Pass / Fail*. Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn.

2016 *Would*. Welcome Gallery, Charlottesville.

2015 *Intimate Jest*. Left Field, San Luis Obispo.

2014 *The Order of Things*. Typology Gallery, Toronto. (Solo)

2014 *Do It Yourself*. 3rd Ward Gallery, New York City.

2013 *First Conference of the International Network of Personal Relationships (INPR)*. Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo. (Solo)

2013 *Heap Gives Up*. Beginnings Gallery, Brooklyn Typology Gallery, Toronto. (Solo)

2013 *Up In Smoke*. Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn.

2012 *"Just do it!" – Density (Trying to be dominant but feeling domestic) interrupts depth*. OKMT, Austin. (Solo)

2011 *Black Foliage*. Nuda Shank, Baltimore.

2011 Installation, Festival of Lights, New York City.

2011 *Cutters*. West Cork Art Centre, Ireland.

2011 *Cutters Edges*. Gestalten, Berlin.

2010 Cinders Gallery, Brooklyn.

2009 *He looked at her, She looked at it, It looked back*. Wild Project, New York City. (Solo) 2008 Invisible NYC, New York City.

2008 Secret Project Robot, New York City.

2007 OKOK Gallery, Seattle.

2007 Maria Wood Gallery, Atlanta.

2007 Sputnik, Brooklyn.

2007 Umber Studios, Minneapolis.

2007 BLK/MRKT Gallery, Los Angeles.

2006 Renowned Gallery, Portland, OR.

2005 Track 16 Gallery, Los Angeles.

2005 AG Gallery, New York City.

2004 Flux Factory, New York City.

2002 *Locked in a room with Bill Traylor*. Print installation, Visual Arts Gallery, New York City. (Solo)

Residencies and Honors

2015 Triangle Artists' Workshop, Salem, New York.

2011 Sculpture residency and sculpture installation, Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens. 2011 Drawing Center viewing program.

2007 Art Directors Club, "Young Gun" Award (for emerging talent in visual communication). 2006

Guest Lecture, Harvard University / Advocate Arts Presents, Cambridge, MA.

2006 Emerging Talent, STEP Inside Design.

2005 Piece Included in MoMA's book collection.

2000 University of Guelph Artist's Residency, Jaipur, India.

Education

2003 School of Visual Arts / Design and Visual Arts 1999 University of Guelph / Philosophy and Visual Arts

Selected Press / Publications

2017 Featured artist, Ambit Magazine, 2015 Featured Artist, MONTEM Magazine, Issue 5. 2015 Featured Artist, Matériel Magazine, Issue 03. 2015 Issue Artist, Five Dials, Issue 37. 2015 Interview, idoart.dk. 2014 Review, Hyperallergic Magazine.

2013 Feature, National Magazine Awards site. 2013 Profile, Beginnings Broadcasting Group.
2013 Feature, The Inquiry Desk.
2013 Interview, Design Arts Daily (D.A.R.T.) 2012 Profile, It's Nice That.
2012 Feature, BOOOOOOOM.com.

Work has also appeared in publications including: *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's*, *Walrus Magazine*, *Graphis*, *Arktip*, *BlackBook*, *J&L Publishing*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Drama*, and *Broken Wrist Project*, amongst many others.