

MAUREEN PALEY.

press release

TOM BURR
Stages

2 June - 23 July 2017

***private view:* Friday 2 June 6:30 – 8:30pm**

Maureen Paley is pleased to present the first exhibition by Tom Burr at the gallery - *Stages*. For nearly three decades Burr's sculpture, writing, collage and photography have addressed the impact of public and private environments upon the constructed persona. His own personal history is carefully examined - often in tandem with a broader local, national and international historical timeline.

The new exhibition at the gallery will feature three platforms hosting a selection of objects that have a dialectical relationship to Marcel Breuer's *Armstrong Rubber* building in New Haven, Connecticut where Burr's most recent site-specific project is unfolding over the next year. These works form an extension of his 'body / building' research and reference Robert Smithson's concept of the 'non-site'. The platforms shown relate to one another and like much of his collage work - oscillate between material arrangements guided by both images and formal concerns.

'... and what of the use of the word 'stage' as a place within the progression of a disease? Can a social body's ailments be diagnosed using this term? What of the removal of populations and groups of people from nations and societies; of Red Scares, bar raids, holding pens and witch hunts that hover in our recent past?

What stage are we at as a society... as a body, as a building?

What of the stages of change made to our constructed world, and architectural history? To the Armstrong Rubber building with its warehouse section amputated in an act not of preservation or restoration, but as part of the slow dismantling of the whole.'

Tom Burr 2017

Tom Burr was born in 1963, New Haven, Connecticut, USA. He currently lives and works in New York, NY, USA. Selected solo exhibitions include *Tom Burr/New Haven: Phase One: Pre-Existing Conditions*, New Haven, Connecticut at the Breuer Armstrong Rubber building (a year long project as part of the Bortolami Gallery's "Artist/City" initiative); *Surplus of Myself*, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany, 2017; *Grips, Dressage*, Parcours, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland, 2013; *Addict – Love*, Sculpture Center, New York, 2008; *Gone, Gone*, American Fine Arts, New York, 2003; *Deep Purple*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2002. Selected group exhibitions include *Sculpture Projects Münster 2017*, Münster, Germany, 2017; *Question the Wall Itself*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota and *Béton*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria in 2016; *To expose, to show, to demonstrate, to inform, to offer*, Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna, Austria, 2015 and *Take It or Leave It: Institution, Image, Ideology*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2014.

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Gallery open: Wednesday - Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. Office hours: Monday - Friday 10 am – 6 pm