

# FUNCTION IS REDUNDANT

CHRIS LARSON

As a self-declared “sculptor” of the uncanny videos that have become the signature vessel of his artistic voice, Minneapolis-based artist Chris Larson practices a form of rogue architecture and homegrown alchemy that recasts buildings and their inhabitants in an illuminating stupor. Using humble materials and pioneer techniques to fabricate unexpectedly fantastical worlds, Larson displaces public and private sites to push otherwise familiar locations into evolving frontiers for both the body and mind. These structures are propelled by either the artist or a cast of unnamed protagonists, further amplifying the human engine of his work and its delivery via labor, toil and the camera’s conspiratorial gaze. Whether transmitted by photo or video, the ensuing episodes are more dream-like than documentary – employing the realism we traditionally entrust to lens-based media to add an inescapable weight to his mind- (and body-) bending environments. Within this folkloric arena influ-

enced by his rural upbringing, elemental forces pierce the pristine parameters of modernism and domesticity in actions that culminate in, or collect within collisions. Between houses that float upon lakes or shimmer from beneath a thick layer of ice, to hallucinatory studio spaces that he pierces, floods and spins to create drawings, prints and passage, Larson authors an implicit manifesto of fluidity, fruitful ruination and labor that exceeds utility. Functionality is rendered secondary here, ceding efficiency and production to meditations that emerge from ceaseless exertions. This exhibition features five of Larson’s most memorable video works produced over the past decade, accompanied by a selection of prints, photos and drawings emerging from the finely orchestrated fray.

Chris Larson: *Function is Redundant* is curated by Steven Matijcio and is on view until September 2, 2018. This is Larson’s first survey exhibition, and it is generously supported by Emersion Design and Artswave Corporate Sponsor: Macy’s.