

Chadwick Rantanen

No Part of This World

May 28 - July 16, 2022

Opening Reception Saturday, May 28 6-9pm

In Chadwick Rantanen's exhibition of photographic demontages and laser-cut plywood sculptures, he modifies conventional cultural symbols to suggest other versions of a perceived reality.

In an ongoing series of photographs, Rantanen constructs a world from collected images of the cross. Drawing from every corner of the internet,—fashion, commercial products, stock photography, political stunts, craft projects, sightings and spiritual memes—Rantanen removes the cruciform's transom or horizontal beam, reducing it to a simple column. The subtle alterations are surgical, involving the extraction of elements followed by a process of seamless grafting and stitching to restore the photograph's cohesiveness. The new symbol, reduced to a line, often nearly disappears within the image. Unburdened by symbolic gravity, the manipulated photos still convey a mystical aesthetic. For example, in one work what appears to be a finger swipe through condensation on a window reveals a spectrum of color from burnt orange to white to a heavenly blue. Another photo portrays an array of hand-decorated plastic strips on a table, a class art project hastily captured with a flash by a schoolteacher. By showing the textures and environs of religiosity, Rantanen also draws focus to the labor that often supports symbolic power.

Informed by Rantanen's upbringing inside the community of Jehovah's Witnesses, the project reenvisions the religious organization's rejection of the cross and other icons. Although the Witnesses claim that the crucifixion occurred on a stake or *crux simplex*, they don't try to replace the cross with a symbol of their own but instead attempt to invert its meaning into a symbol of what they are *not*. In response, Rantanen's altered photographs depict a world centered around a 'weak symbol,' one difficult to distinguish from other common forms, creating the potential for unexpected and uncertain spiritual encounters.

Alongside the photographs are a series of laser-cut, plywood sculptures, in which the artist extracts staircase designs from various dollhouses, toys, tabletop games and crafts. Rantanen assembles these into a morphology, cataloging the vernacular particular to these fantasy constructions. Their building methodology is unified by simple joinery. The pieces evoke architectural models, but the staircases are not just scaled-down renderings. For example, a cylindrical baluster on a staircase might translate as a simplified 2D silhouette cut out: an impression, a sign. Relegated to the realm of tchotchkes and play, the staircases convey only traces of the built world. Displayed together, they describe a medium of emulation, transition and transcendence.

Chadwick Rantanen (b. 1981, Wausau, Wisconsin) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Solo exhibitions include *Secession*, Vienna, Austria; *Museo Pietro Canonica*, Rome, Italy; *Standard* (Oslo), Oslo, Norway; *Essex Street*, New York, New York; *Overduin and Co.*, Los Angeles, California; *Shane Campbell Gallery*, Chicago, Illinois. He has been included in group exhibitions at *Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit*, Detroit, Michigan; *Grazer Kunstverein*, Graz, Austria; *Tanya Leighton*, Berlin, Germany; *Luhring Augustine*, New York; *CLEARING*, Paris, France; *Swiss Institute*, New York; and *Kunsthau Glarus*, Glarus; *SculptureCenter*, Long Island City, New York; and *Artists Space*, New York. His work is in the collections of the *Walker Art Center*, Minneapolis; *ArtNow International*, San Francisco; *Minneapolis Institute of Arts*, Minneapolis, Minnesota and *Albright-Knox*, Buffalo, New York. Rantanen's work has been reviewed in *Mousse Magazine*, *Frieze*, *Artforum*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Art in America*, *New York Times*, *Flash Art*, and *CARLA*.

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No Part of This World
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Photographs, clockwise from the entrance:

Painting Project
Ripped Skin Tattoo
Doorhandle
Fluff at Christmas
Class Crafts
Sticks
Hammered Sins
Window
Wooden Boards and Flower
Chocolate Orange Buns
Wooden Boards
Farmer Gene
Ring and Bottle

All photographs: archival pigment print in walnut frame, 2022

Sculptures, clockwise from the entrance:

Press Fit (Ladder)
Laser Cut-Out (Ladder)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Stairway)
Press Fit (Ladder)
Laser Cut-Out (Ladder)
Press Fit (Ladder)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Ladder)
Press Fit (Stairway)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Stairway)
Laser Cut-Out (Ladder)
Press Fit (Staircase)
Press Fit (Stairway)
Press Fit (Ladder)
Press Fit (Ladder)
Press Fit (Ladder)

All sculptures: laser cut plywood, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



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Chadwick Rantanen

Painting Project, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

9 1/8 x 13 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (23.3 x 34.3 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

5 x 1 x 1 in (12.7 x 2.5 x 2.5 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Laser Cut-Out (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

6 1/4 x 1 1/2 x 1/8 in (15.9 x 3.8 x .3 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

6 3/4 x 2 x 4 in (17.1 x 5.1 x 10.2 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Ripped Skin Tattoo, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

9 3/4 x 20 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (24.8 x 52 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

9 x 2 5/8 x 1 1/2 in (22.9 x 6.7 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022

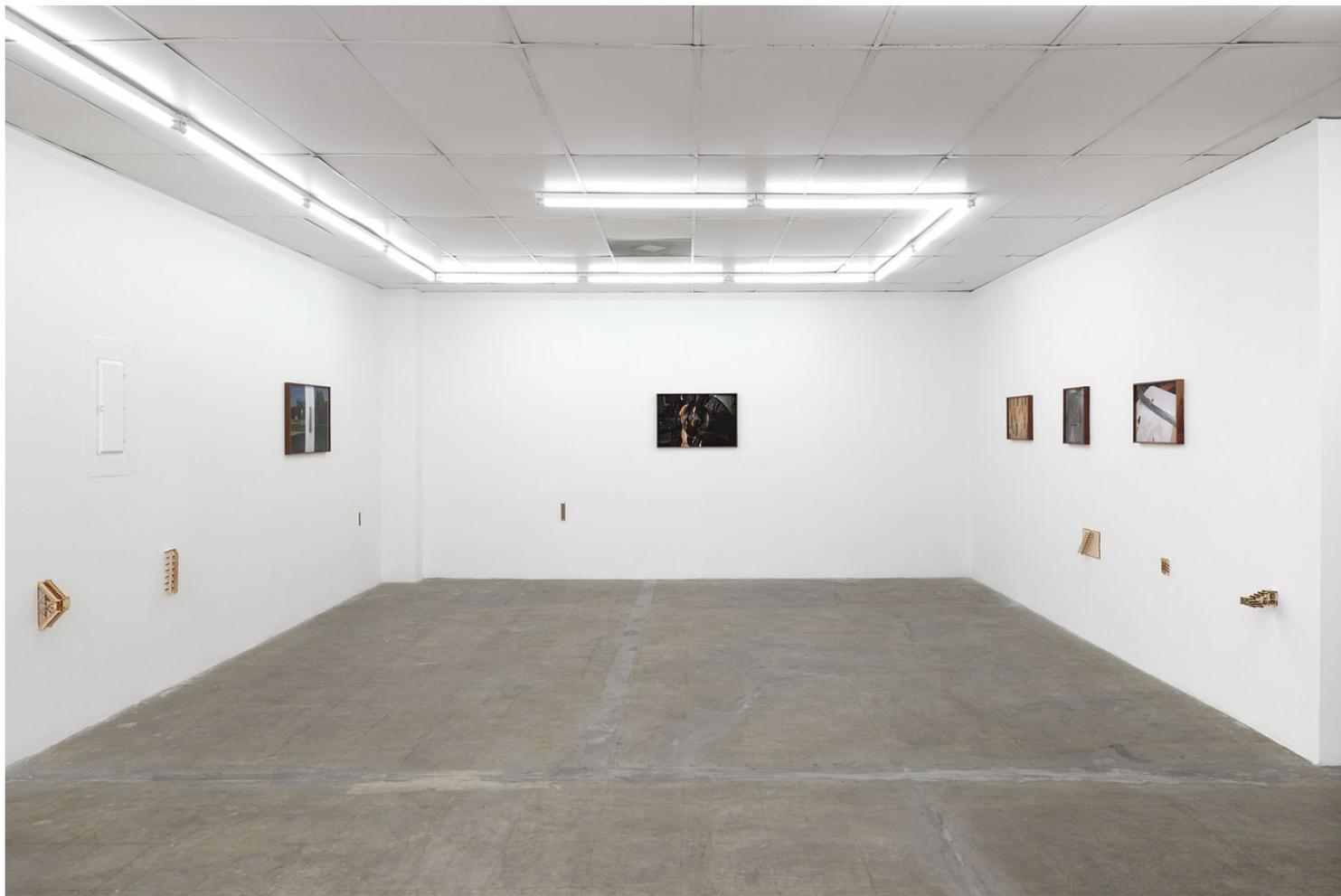


Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

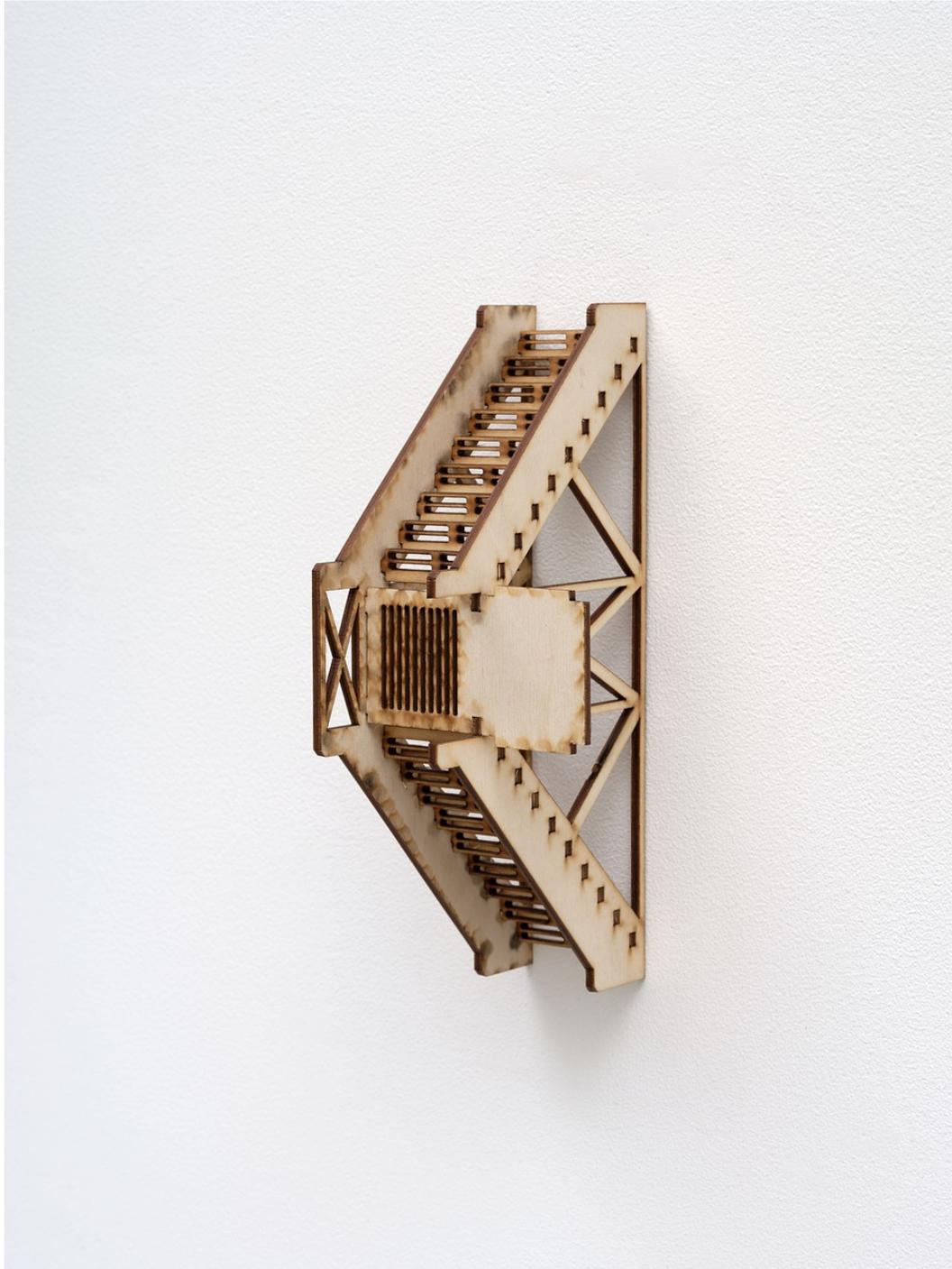
1 1/2 x 4 x 1 3/4 in (3.8 x 10.2 x 4.4 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Stairway), 2022

Laser cut plywood

8 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 4 in (21.6 x 8.9 x 10.2 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

10 x 2 x 1 1/2 in (25.4 x 5.1 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Doorhandle, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

27 1/4 x 20 1/2 in (69.1 x 52.1 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Laser Cut-Out (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

5 1/2 x 3/4 x 1/8 in (14 x 1.9 x 0.3 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
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Chadwick Rantanen

Fluff at Christmas, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

20 3/8 x 30 3/8 x 1 1/2 in (51.8 x 77.2 x 3.8 cm)

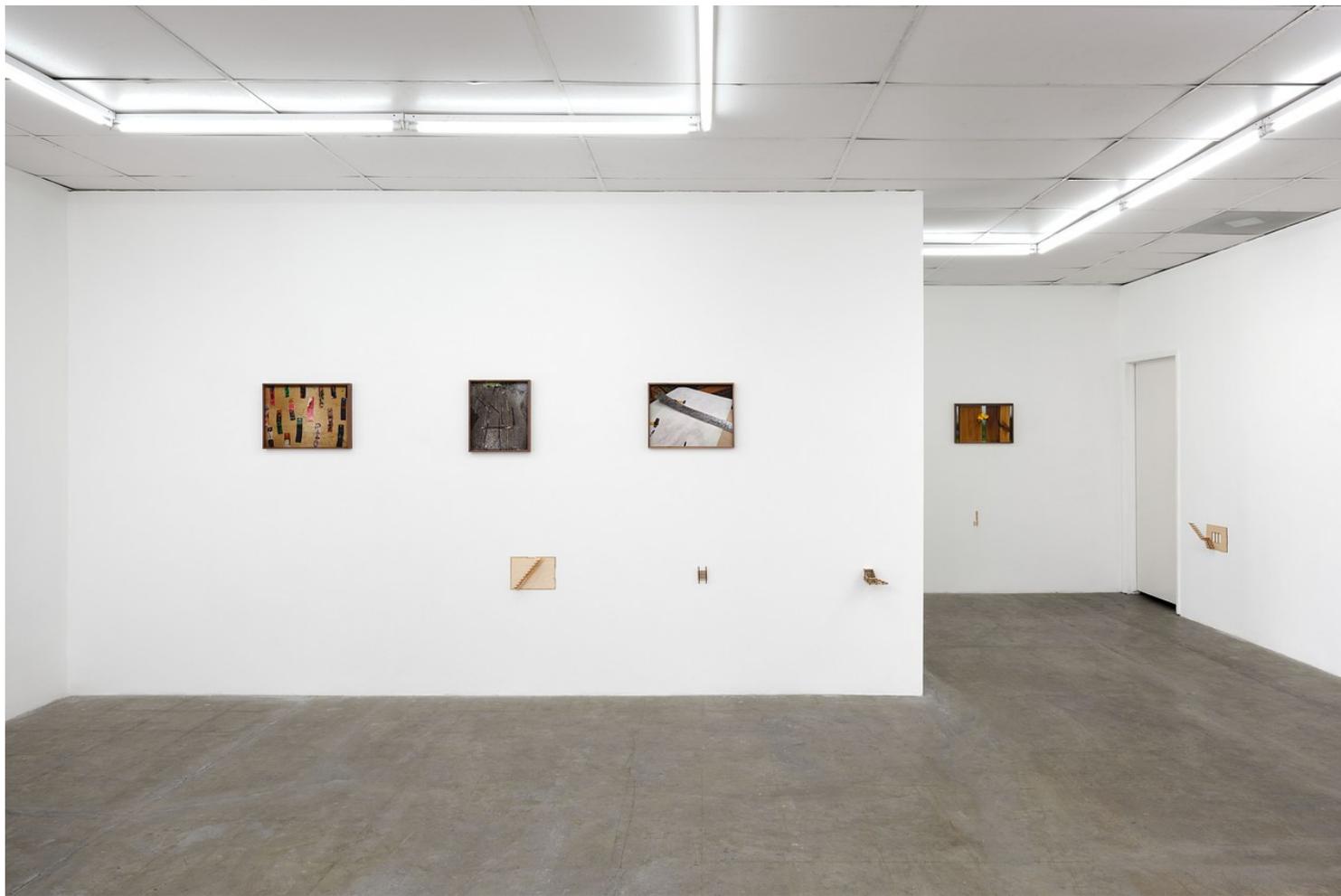


Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

7 x 1 5/8 x 5/8 in (17.8 x 4.2 x 1.6 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Class Crafts, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

14 x 18 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (35.6 x 47 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Sticks, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

15 3/8 x 13 x 1 1/2 in (39 x 33 x 3.8 cm)

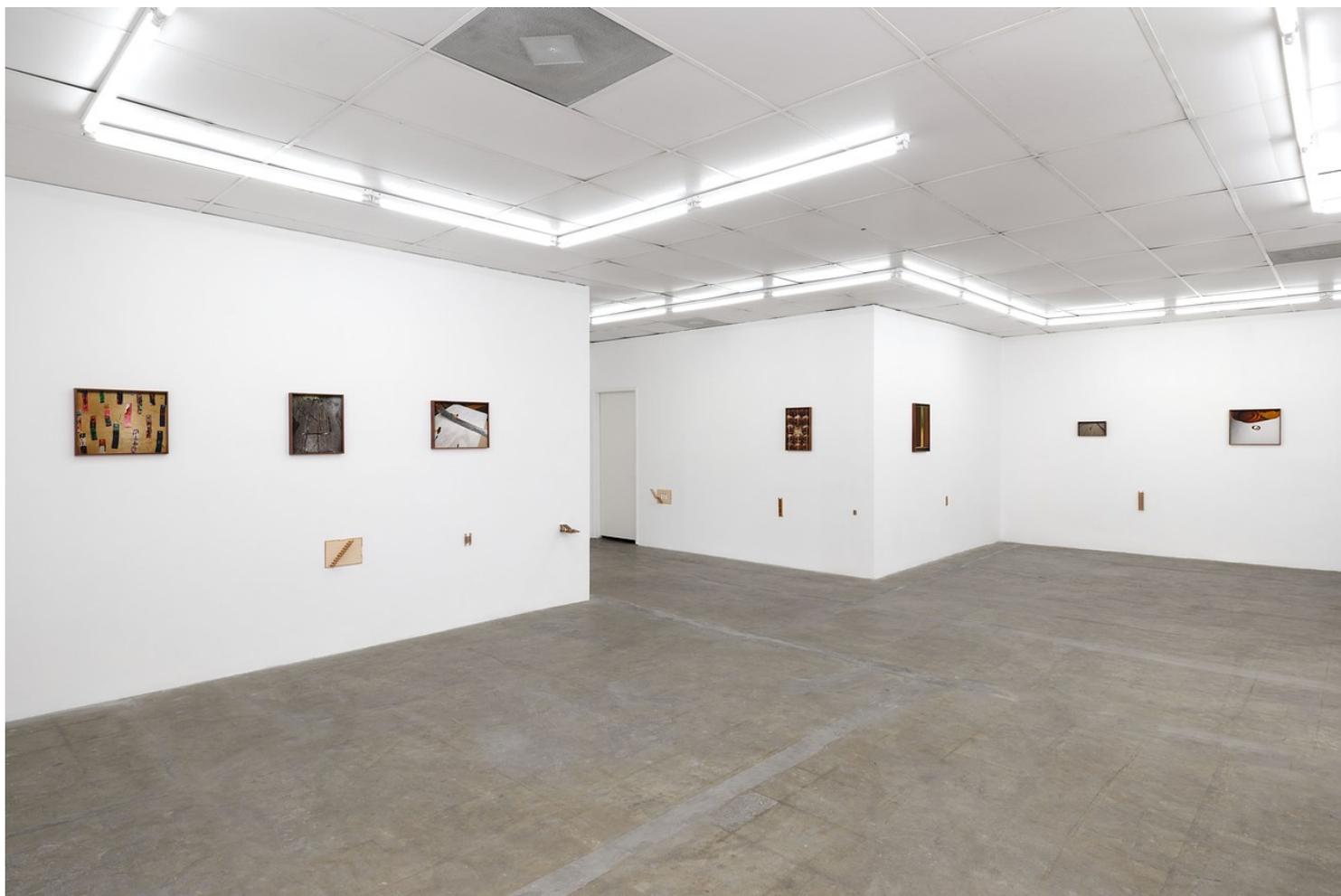


Chadwick Rantanen

Hammered Sins, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

14 x 18 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (35.6 x 47 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

7 x 9 1/2 x 2 1/8 in (17.8 x 24.1 x 5.4 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

3 3/4 x 2 x 1 in (9.5 x 5.1 x 2.5 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Stairway), 2022

Laser cut plywood

2 1/2 x 4 x 6 in (6.4 x 10.2 x 15.2 cm)



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“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

8 1/2 x 2 x 1 3/4 in (21.6 x 5.1 x 4.4 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Window, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

7 1/4 x 10 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (18.4 x 26.7 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

4 1/4 x 3 1/2 x 4 in (10.8 x 8.9 x 10.2 cm)

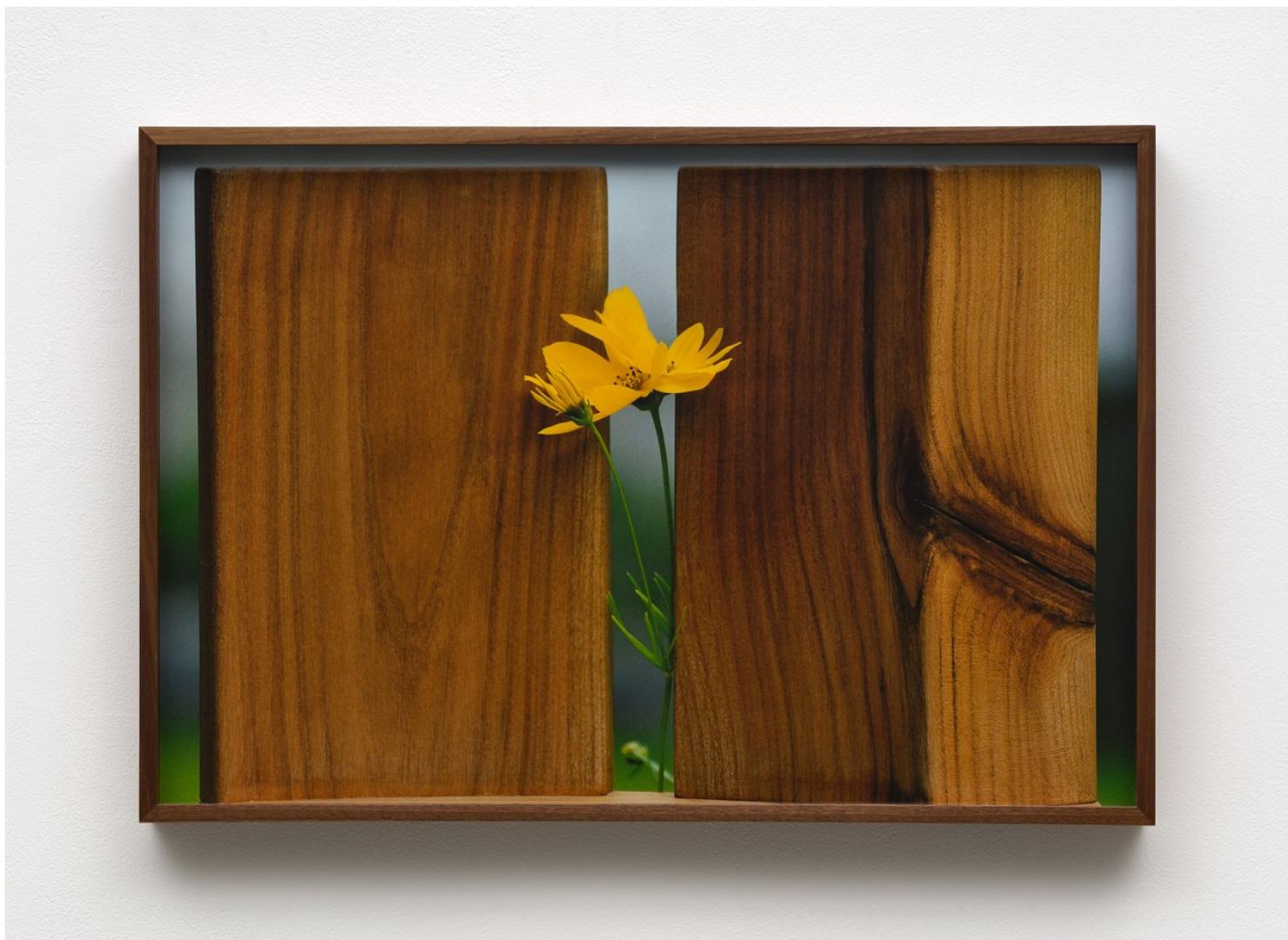


Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Stairway), 2022

Laser cut plywood

8 1/2 x 3 1/8 x 5/8 in (21.6 x 8.8 x 1.6 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Wooden Boards and Flower, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

14 1/8 x 20 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (36 x 52 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Laser Cut-Out (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

5 3/4 x 1 1/2 x 1/8 in (14.6 x 3.8 x .3 cm)



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Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Staircase), 2022

Laser cut plywood

7 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 5 3/4 in (19 x 24.1 x 16.6 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Chocolate Orange Buns, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

18 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (47 x 31.7 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Stairway), 2022

Laser cut plywood

8 1/2 x 3/4 x 1 5/8 in (21.6 x 1.9 x 4.1 cm)

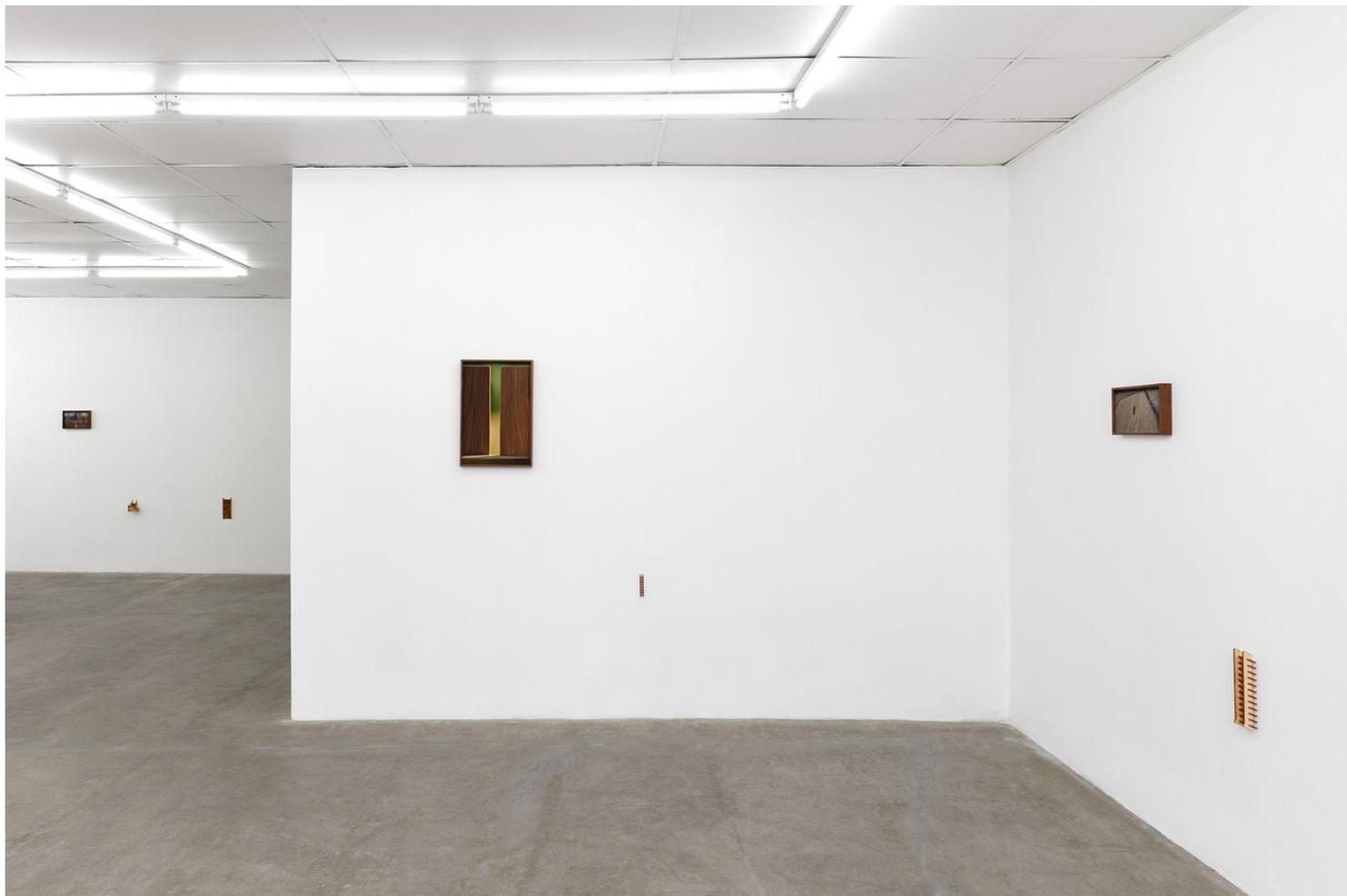


Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

2 x 1 x 1/2 in (5.1 x 2.5 x 1.3 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Wooden Boards, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

21 x 14 1/8 x 1 1/2 in (53.3 x 36 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

5 1/2 x 5/8 x 5/8 in (1.6 x 14 x 1.6 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen
“No Part of This World” at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022



Chadwick Rantanen

Farmer Gene, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

7 1/4 x 12 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (18.4 x 31.8 x 3.8 cm)

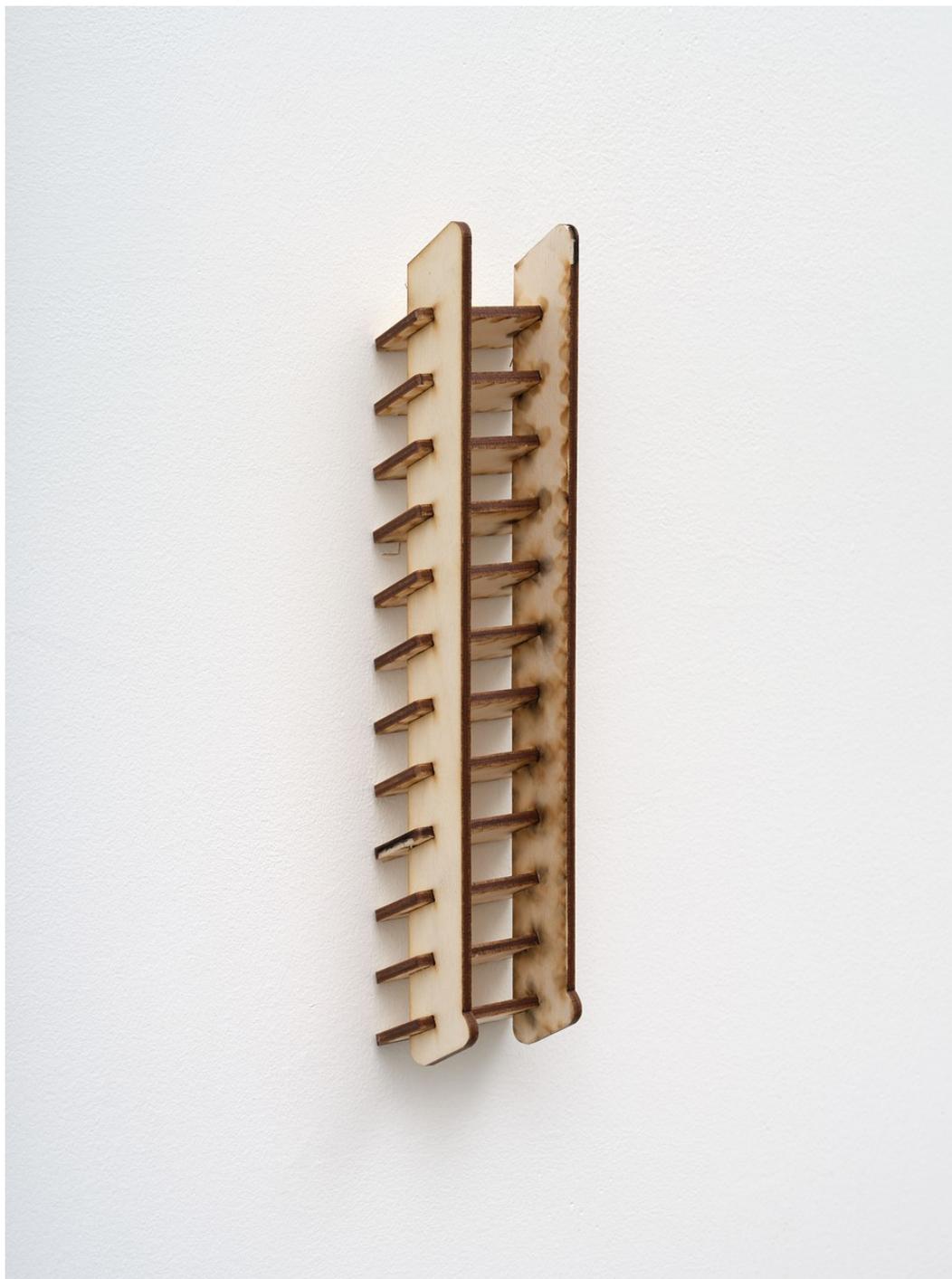


Chadwick Rantanen

Ring and Bottle, 2022

Archival pigment print, walnut frame

15 1/2 x 20 1/2 x 1 1/2 in (39.4 x 52 x 3.8 cm)



Chadwick Rantanen

Press Fit (Ladder), 2022

Laser cut plywood

9 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 1 1/2 in (24.1 x 5.7 x 3.8 cm)



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"No Part of This World" at Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2022

CHADWICK RANTANEN
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Born 1981, Wausau, WI
Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

EDUCATION

2010 MFA, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
2003 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, USA
2003 BFA, Minneapolis College of Art and Design Mpls, USA
2001 New York Studio Program New York, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *No Part of This World*, Bel Ami, Los Angeles, USA
2020 *WORM*, Standard (OSLO), Oslo Norway
One Plus One, Standard (OSLO), Oslo Norway
Stauros, Essex Street, New York, USA
2019 *Neutrality*, Overduin and Co., Los Angeles, USA
Atlantis, Marseille, France
2018 *Reception in Clear*, CAPITAL, San Francisco, USA
2017 *WARD*, Secession, Vienna, Austria
Benjamin Hirte / Chadwick Rantanen, Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome, Italy
Alarmer, Team Bungalow, Los Angeles, USA
2016 *Five Bars of Deal*, Essex St, New York, USA
A Picture of a Garden Cannot Be Used to Prevent that Garden's Manufacture, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway
Benton Beach House, The Sullivans, Mary's Getaway, Connor Lake House, Carol's Cabin, Etc... Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA
*M*A*S*H*, with Calvin Marcus, Clearing, Brussels, Belgium
2015 *Honeydew*, with Bill Jenkins, Michael Thibault, Los Angeles, USA
2014 *Concerned, Interested and Wanting to Help*, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway
2013 Chadwick Rantanen, Essex Street, New York, USA
2012 *More Often and in More Places*, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway
2010 Dan Graham, Los Angeles, USA
Jancar Jones Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2008 Jancar Jones Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2007 Scatter Walls, Homie, Berlin, Germany
2005 Southern Exposure, San Francisco, USA
2003 Richard Dadd Gallery, St. Paul, USA

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- SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
- 2022 *Group Show*, Tanya Bonakdar, Los Angeles, USA
- 2021 *Summer Viewing*, Essex Street, New York, USA
Plus One, Luhring Augustine, New York, USA
Grand Ménage, CLEARING, Paris, France
4, M23, New York, NY
- 2020 *Tokyo Detroit Berlin*, Tokas, Tokyo, Japan
Ups and Downs, STANDARD(OSLO), Oslo, Norway
The Obvious, Michaels, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Schmalz*, Guimarães, Vienna Austria
Catch Me If You Can, XYZ Collective, Art Lab Hashimoto, Tokyo, Japan
The Pink House, Bad Reputation, Los Angeles, CA
Nothing Will be as Before, Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany
This is a Pipe: Realism and the Found Object in Contemporary Art, Shane Campbell, Chicago
Tick Tock, Lehman College Art Gallery, The Bronx
BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO,
STANDARD(OSLO), Oslo, Norway
- 2017 *On Half a Tank of Gas*, organized by Swiss Institute and Kunsthaus Glarus, New Glarus, Wisconsin
Friend???, Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zurich, Switzerland
99 Cents, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, USA
May the Bridges I Burn Light the Way, STANDARD(OSLO), Oslo, Norway
- 2016 *The Peacock*, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, Austria
War Games, Moran Bondaroff, Detroit, Michigan
Beautiful Young Men, Artpark Gallery, Lewiston, New York
The Revolutionary Suicide Mechanised Regiment Band, Rob Tufnell, Cologne, Germany
- 2015 *National Gallery 2: Empire*, CHEWDAY'S, London, UK
No Joke, curated by Sanya Kantarovsky, Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany
WITH A CLEAR MIND you can move with the truth, Lumber Room, Portland, Oregon, USA
Essex Street @ Essex Street, Essex Street, New York, USA
- 2014 *Puddle, pothole, portal*, SculptureCenter, Long Island City, New York, USA
New Gravity, curated by Olivian Cha & Eli Diner, Overduin & Co., Los Angeles, California, USA
Another Cats Show, 356 S. Mission Road, Los Angeles, California, USA
CK One Daily, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, California, USA
Apples and Pears, curated by James Clarkson, Raum Drei, Cologne, Germany
- 2013 *Fearful Symmetry*, Balice Hertling at the Film Center, New York, USA
Silent Hardware, David Dale Gallery, Glasgow, UK
Sea Salt and Cross Passes, curated by Eivind Furnesvik, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, UK
United Artists, Ltd. Marfa, Texas, USA
Standard Escape Routes, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway
- 2012 *OO*, curated by Rob Halverson, Misako & Rosen, Tokyo, Japan
Things, Words and Consequences, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia
Barry MacGregor Johnston, Pennacchio Argentato, Chadwick Rantanen, Galerie Micky Schubert,
Berlin, Germany
Die Farbe lügt oder der Geist von Kurumba, Figge von Rosen, Berlin, Germany

- Paul Cowan, Brendan Fowler, Chadwick Rantanen, Dan Rees*, Shane Campbell, Chicago
Sean Kennedy / Chadwick Rantanen, Untitled, New York, USA
Straight up, Family Business, New York, USA
I think and that is all I am, Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
The Museum Problem, curated by Chris Fitzpatrick, Frutta Gallery, Rome, Italy
- 2011 *Ryan Foerster, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Chadwick Rantanen*, Laurel Gitlen, New York, USA
3,348 Hours of Sunshine, Clifton Benevento, New York, USA
- 2010 *Wild Thing*, Roberts and Tilton, Los Angeles, USA
MFA Thesis Exhibition, New Wright Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2009 *Nothing*, Jancar Jones Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2008 *Lucas DeGiulio, Bill Jenkins, Chadwick Rantanen*, Jancar Jones Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2007 *On Being an Exhibition*, Artists Space, New York, USA
Space is a Place, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, USA
- 2006 *What's The Story*, Playspace Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2005 *One With The Sun*, Ooga Booga Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Fog Food, De Young Art Center, San Francisco, USA
- 2004 *Elusive Quality*, Mobile Cinema, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Elusive Quality, PARTICIPANT INC. Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 *The Stray Show*, showing with The Soap Factory, Chicago, USA
Sincerely Yours, ArtCenter Del Mar Gallery, Pasadena, USA
Alicia McCarthy/Markus Lunkenheimer and Lucas DeGiulio (with Chadwick Rantanen), Midway Contemporary Art, St. Paul, USA
- 2002 *Supernatural Satisfaction*, The Soap Factory, Minneapolis, USA
- 2001 *Assured Environments*, The New York Studio Program, New York, USA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Furnesvik, Eivind, "1-20", One Plus One, Standard (Books), March 2021
Jacquet, Matthieu, "Une exposition réveille les fantômes d'un vieil hôtel particulier parisien", Numéro, June 9th, 2021
TOKAS Project Vol. 3, Tokyo Detroit Berlin, Tokyo Arts and Space, 2021
- 2018 Artist Lecture Series Vienna Conversations, Interview with Chadwick Rantanen, Ezara Spangl and Rainer Spangl September 4th, 2017
Hoffman, Jens, '99¢ or Less', Exhibition Catalog, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit
- 2017 'WARD', Artists Book Accompanying exhibition at Secession, Vienna, Revolver Publishing
de Brugerolle, Marie. "Benjamin Hirte and Chadwick Rantanen at Museo Pietro Canonica, Villa Borghese, Rome," Mousse Magazine
Duncan, Thomas. "Chadwick Rantanen at team (bungalow)," Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles, March 30
Griffin, Jonathan. "Chadwick Rantanen," Frieze, May
Mizota, Sharon. "Review: 'Deer Rear' and other unnerving looks at the nature of trickery," Los Angeles Times, April 3
- 2016 Korman, Sam. "Chadwick Rantanen," Art in America, June/July
Chadwick Rantanen at Essex Street,' Contemporary Art Writing Daily, May 12
Berardini, Andrew. 'Bill Jenkins and Chadwick Rantanen – Michael Thibault', Artforum, January
- 2015 Bell, Kristy. 'Gallery Weekend Berlin,' art agenda, May 4

- Diehl, Travis. 'Chadwick Rantanen and Bill Jenkins,' Artforum, November 4
- 2014 Diehl, Travis. 'New Gravity,' Artforum.com, September 18
- Foley, Lee. 'Chadwick Rantanen,' Puddle, pothole, portal, New York: SculptureCenter
- Johnson, Ken. 'The Art of Funny: Cartoon Imagery, Often With an Edge,' The New York Times, Oct 10
- Snowden, Robert. 'Interview,' In Stork Style Embroidery 18 Pc..., STANDARD (BOOKS)
- Small, Rachel. 'A Visit to Toon Town, in Art World,' Interview, October
- Rødland, Torbjørn. 'The A to I of 9ness,' Stork Style Embroidery 18 Pc..., STANDARD (BOOKS)
- Tasman, David Andrew. 'Chadwick Rantanen at STANDARD (OSLO),' Kaleidoscope, February 5
- 2013 Tavecchia, Elena. 'Chadwick Rantanen,' Flash Art, July–September
- 2012 Jonathan Griffin, "Holding Patterns", Mousse, Issue 33, April – May
- 2010 Helfland, Glen, Artforum International, October
- Baker, Kenneth, "Rantanen: deadpan walking", San Francisco Chronicle, August 7
- Melendez, Franklin, "Chadwick Rantanen's Spatial Proposition", ArtSlant, July
- 2008 Rockefeller, Airyka, "Chadwick Rantanen @ Jancar Jones Gallery", Whitehot Magazine, Sept
- Amala, Isaac, "DeGiulio, Jenkins, and Rantanen", Flavorpill, March
- Jahn, Marisa, "On Being an Exhibition" @ Artists Space, Stretcher, San Francisco, October 30
- 2005 Del Pesco, Joseph, "Welcome to the institution's little corner of the institution", Exposure No. 1, Jan
- 2004 Cornell, Lauren, "Fail Better", Black Diamond Magazine
- 2003 Bartol, Muriel, "Chadwick Rantanen", 'Sincerely Your's' Exhibition Catalog, April