

Sara Murphy

How to Read a Room

5/29/16 — 6/27/16

Cleopatra's is pleased to present a solo exhibition by New York based artist, Sara Murphy. The exhibition titled, How to Read a Room, continues Murphy's project rooted in a semiotic investigation of the human body and dimensional values. The exhibition includes a new series of works in which the relationship between words and things are seen in structural terms.

Murphy tests the limits of space through sculpture and drawing. Pieces often manifest as three-dimensional "drawing" by involving processes like cutting, tracing, carving, leveling and assembling to embed images directly into built surfaces. Murphy begins with an image of a figure, an object, a gesture, or posture, reduced to a simple line drawing. The image might be matched to an operatively related object; for example a seated position to a chair. She then designs a construction method that combines the two, thinking through the order of operations with a tendency towards economy.

The works exhibited include Murphy's recurring use of the seated figure, a compressed posture that suggests a mood or body language, and the dissected topographical representation of the figure. The free standing sculpture in the center of the gallery serves as both an abstraction of the figure and an exploration of perspective. Wood panel pieces deploy body contours to gesture at imagined spaces. Line drawings, cut into sections of drywall and compiled in books, presented on a table bring the title of the exhibition, How to Read a Room, to a literal interpretation.

Sara Murphy, born 1983, lives and works in New York. She received her BFA from Memphis College of Art, and MFA from Hunter College. She also holds a Certificate in Art Conservation from Studio Art Centers International, Florence. Her work has been included in group exhibitions including Freedom Culture, curated by Graham Collins at the Journal Gallery; Habeas Corpus, at Halsey McKay Galley; and Joey, curated by Gina Beavers at The Active Space.

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