

**David Snyder**

*Ersatz OK*

January 25 – March 21, 2019

Michael Benevento is pleased to present *Ersatz OK*, a solo exhibition by David Snyder.

Like it or not, we have come to rely on the oracular authority of the illuminated screen. A range of answers to any and all questions - probes sent into the depths of human imagination and experience - all reside within one's pocket. In digital space, everything is immediately adjacent to everything else: only one click separates the most disparate objects and ideas. This compression of space belies the fact that the conduits of information and their compelling collocations of text and image are neither objective nor are they neutral. The instantaneity of access is deceptive: labyrinthine human constructs formed of binary code frame, legitimize, obscure, and misinform according to the interests of capital and power.

With this installation, Snyder seeks to materialize various of these immaterial or virtual domains, to consider these constructs - their forms, their influence on our immediate experience - as if they had tangible structure. The elaborately artificial glitz and coruscation of commercial advertising becomes a precarious high Federalist style arch wrought from 99-cent store bric-a-brac, a bot (of circumspect if not artificial intelligence) limps its way feebly into confrontational interaction, and various impediments and apparatuses - seen and unseen - interfere with and obscure access to layers of sublimated information. Snyder presents a textured and irregular retelling of our mediated status quo; by turns sardonic and austere, frenetic and stolid. Consistent throughout is a whimsical yet urgent and vivid speculation as to our relative agency and alienation within the construction and reification of normalcy by, for all intents and purposes, invisible forces. Everything is not OK.