

T H E A R T S
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Jessi Reaves: All possessive lusts dispelled

Public Opening February 16 from 5:30p-8p

Interview with the Artist at 6:00p

Free and open to all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



A sample of the truth, 2022

Image courtesy of the artist and Bridget Donahue, NYC. Photographer credit: Gregory Carideo

"I don't want someone to have to tell you to sit, because it's more about the encounter with the thing – wondering if you can sit. There's a certain person who's willing to test that boundary".-

Jessi Reaves

Jessi Reaves combines iconic modernist design with an irreverent aesthetic in sculpture that toys with functionality. Reaves often begins with found furniture, which she dismantles, converts, remakes, enhances, pads, and embellishes in ways that still allow the suggestion of physical contact or use. By breaking things open, she proposes that they be examined visually and in terms of their purpose in life. The exhibition at The Arts Club of Chicago centers on the work *Personal Heat, 2021*, a deconstructed shelf/credenza with accompanying video that

explores themes of renovation and rebellion. The sculptural aspect features a pop punk aesthetic of hot pink animal stripes, as if Reeves had been locked in a room in her great aunt's house with a can of paint, a saw, and some wood glue. The funk and humor of this work and of Reeves's other sculptures and wall reliefs belie a mastery of complex composition, color, and the ability to integrate disparate materials. Reeves brings to her seemingly off-handed works a range of manual skills that she uses to both humorous and unsettling effect. *Jessi Reeves: all possessive lusts dispelled* offers a sensuous installation of works that allow the abject to infiltrate the ontology of the object.

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Jessi Reeves (b. 1986, Portland, Oregon) earned her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, in 2009. Reeves's solo exhibitions include *Going Out in Style*, Herald St, London (2019); *Jessi Reeves II*, Bridget Donahue, New York (2019); *Kitchen Arrangement*, a site-specific commission for *The Domestic Plane: New Perspectives on Tabletop Art Objects*, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2018); *android stroll*, Herald St, London (2017); *Jessi Reeves*, Bridget Donahue, New York (2016); and *Now Showing: Jessi Reeves*, SculptureCenter, Long Island City, New York (2016). Recent group exhibitions include *Slant Step Forward*, Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, California (2019); Carnegie International, 57th Edition, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2018); *Ginny Casey and Jessi Reeves*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2017); Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2017); and *Looking Back*, the eleventh White Columns Annual, White Columns, New York (2017), among others.

Since 1916, **The Arts Club of Chicago** has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: "to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers."

Please direct press inquiries and requests for images to David Merz at press@artsclubchicago.org or call 312-787-3997.

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Gallery Hours: Tues. – Fri. 10–6; Sat. 11–3