

Jessica Silverman Announces *Martha Friedman: Brain in Hand*, the Artist's First Solo Exhibition with the Gallery, Opening April 29, 2022



Martha Friedman, *Floating Thought #4*, 2022.



Silas Riener, rehearsal of *Tenterhooks*, 2022.

Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 14, 2022) – Jessica Silverman is pleased to announce *Martha Friedman: Brain in Hand*, the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery, on view from April 29 to May 28, 2022. Continuing her highly technical investigation of embodiment, neurology and the multiplicity of form, the artist will debut a new series of ten cast rubber lightboxes inspired by drawings of the human brain by the late 19th century neuroanatomist, Santiago Ramón y Cajal. The exhibition includes a performance of *Tenterhooks* with the artist's longtime collaborator, choreographer and dancer Silas Riener, to be staged at the gallery on Friday, May 6 at 6:30PM and Saturday, May 7 at 12PM and 3PM.

In her series *A Natural Thickening of Thought*, Friedman creates evocative rubber works—a material central to the artist's practice—that mimic empirical representations of the brain and explore the materiality of the body from the inside out. While Cajal's drawings sought to achieve

scientific accuracy, Friedman abstracts cerebral circuitry into loose figurations of dendrites and somas imbuing them with vibrant pigments. The artist's sculptural process is precise yet experimental; her cast rubber objects are three-dimensional wall works that suggest suspension. This gestural form of mark-making uses the microscopic to enact new material associations where the body is both subject and object at once, bearing witness to itself.

A key component of the exhibition will be an iteration of an ongoing collaboration between Friedman and Silas Riener. As part of their performance, one of the gallery's walls will be transformed into a row of large, floor-to-ceiling rubber band sculptures that reference invisible organs, such as the cable-like axon that carries electrical impulses through the brain. In his performances, Riener will suspend himself and move through the rubber bands, converting his own body into material – temporarily interweaving the flesh of the performer and the rubber created by the artist into an animated sculptural fabric.

Brain in Hand coincides with the artist's solo exhibition *Body Matters* on view at Art@Bainbridge at Princeton University Art Museum opening May 20, 2022. Much like the gallery exhibition, *Body Matters* will present rubber works that explore the limits and enigmas of human corporeality.

ABOUT MARTHA FRIEDMAN

Martha Friedman (b. 1977, Detroit, MI) earned her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her MFA from Yale University School of Art. She is a senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Program at Princeton University. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held at the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle (2018); The Institute of Fine Arts Great Hall, New York (2016-2017); Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY (2017); Locust Projects, Miami, FL (2015-2016), among others. She was the recipient of a 2017 Visiting Artist Fellowship at Urban Glass, Brooklyn, and the recipient of a 2016 and 2020 National Endowment for the Arts grant in collaboration with Susan Marshall & Company. In May 2022, *Body Matters / Martha Friedman* will open at Art@Bainbridge, Princeton University Art Museum. She lives and works in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

ABOUT JESSICA SILVERMAN

Jessica Silverman is an ambitious, innovative, and internationally renowned contemporary art gallery with a reputation for curating compelling exhibitions, building artists' careers, and collaborating with collectors who are keen on positive provenance.

Silverman founded her eponymous gallery in 2008 after obtaining an MA in Curatorial Practice from San Francisco's California College of the Arts on the heels of a BFA from Otis College in Los Angeles. Silverman sat on the San Francisco Arts Commission for nine years. She is a founding member of 8-bridges, a member of the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) and

a member of the Selection Committee of Expo Chicago. The gallery represents prominent Californian and international artists at all stages of their careers. Works by the gallery's artists have been acquired by museums all over the world including Tate (London), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Reina Sofia (Madrid), MoMA (New York), MCA Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas), Los Angeles County Museum of Art, National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, not to mention SFMOMA and the De Young Museum (San Francisco).

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