

Jessi Reaves

26.04 — 15.06.2024

5 & 7 rue de Beaune, Paris

Jessi Reaves' work is an attempt to undermine the historiographically entrenched classifications between decorative arts and fine art, as well as between the functional and the aesthetic. For nearly a decade, as Kate Nesin* writes, she has been assembling sculptures both from and in response to the afterlife of modernism within Western design culture - axioms turned idioms, formal tenets turned formulaic language.

Recognizable objects and furniture such as armchairs, chairs, shelves and tables become sculptures through a succession of gestures that are both rigorous and playful, aestheticizing and eroticizing them at the same time. Simultaneously, the artist seems to reveal the mystery of their composition, function, construction, materials and interactions. Reversing the properties and characteristics of the furniture with which we share our intimacy, on which we rest our bodies, is not without comment. It is a method of creation and appropriation that fundamentally questions our thinking and the binary categorizations that are still prevalent today.

For her first exhibition in France, Jessi Reaves presents a series of recent sculptures, as well as a video work entitled *Reflect as one*, from 2023, projected onto a piece of furniture-screen fabricated by the artist, both an audio collage and a dramatic reconstruction.

Jessi Reaves, born in Portland (Oregon, US) in 1986, studied at the Rhode Island School of Design (US). Her work has been shown in numerous exhibitions, including in 2023 at The Arts Club of Chicago (US), in 2022 at Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York (US), at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh (US), in 2021 at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (US), in 2019 at Herald Street Gallery, London (UK), in 2018 at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield (US), in 2017 at Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia (US) and at the Whitney Biennial (US).

*Kate Nesin, *Jessi Reaves : All possessive lusts dispelled*, The Arts Club of Chicago, 2023