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ONSEN CONFIDENTIAL THE FINAL

April 7 Sunday–21 Sunday

Fig. is pleased to announce its participation in **ONSEN CONFIDENTIAL: THE FINAL**, a hybrid city-wide gallery share and natural hot spring retreat and conference. Fig. will be proudly hosting an exhibition together with Kim? Contemporary Art Center (Riga, Latvia) and Good Weather (Chicago/Little Rock, USA). The exhibition features work by six artists: Karlina Mežecka, Rūdolfs Štamers, Ron Ewert, Raque Ford, COBRA, and Shizuoka Okada.

Guest Galleries:

Kim? Contemporary Art Center (Riga, Latvia)

Karlina Mežecka (b.1995, lives and works in London)

Rūdolfs Štamers (b.1995, lives and works in Paris)

Good Weather (Chicago / Little Rock, USA)

Ron Ewert (b. 1982, lives and works in Brooklyn)

Raque Ford (b. 1986, lives and works in Brooklyn)

Host Gallery:

Fig. (Tokyo, Japan)

COBRA (b.1980, lives and works in Tokyo)

Shizuka Okada (b.1987, lives and works in Kyoto)

Exhibiting Artists:

Rūdolfs Štamers (1995) is Latvian artist living and working in Paris. Štamers has graduated from the Visual Communication Department of the Art Academy of Latvia and holds a Master's degree from the Royal Academy of Art in Antwerp. His most recent solo exhibitions include *Voices in My Heads*, TUR, Riga (2023), *Metamorphoses*, New Garden gallerie, Paris (2022), “*Tur kaut kam ir jābūt*”, *Tu Jau Zini Kur*, Riga (2020) and selected group shows: *Lucky Charms*, Ballroom gallery, Brussels (2022), PILOT LMA x Art Vilnius'21, Kuldīga Art House, Kuldīga (2022), *Surrender*, PILOT Gallery, Riga (2021), “Art Vilnius” Art Fair, gallery PILOT Gallery booth, Vilnius (2021), MASTERS EXPO, Royal Academy of fine arts Antwerp (2020). Since 2017, Štamers has curated several group exhibitions in galleries and artist-run spaces in Latvia and abroad.

Karlina Mežecka (1995) is an artist presently living and working in London, UK. She earned her bachelor's degree from the Department of Ceramics at the Art Academy of Latvia (2020) and her MA from the Ceramics & Glass programme at the Royal College of Art in London (2022). Her most recent exhibitions include Martinsons Award, Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia (2023); *Decentrality Dispersed in One Place*, Padure Manor, Padure, Latvia (2023); *Black Market 3*, Kim? Skolas street 18, Rīga, Latvia (2022); *Synchronicities*, Vagonu street, Riga, LV (2022); *My Empty Shell*, Candid Gallery, London, UK (2022); *Melting Pot*, London, UK (2022); *Security Patterns*, Low Gallery, Riga, Latvia (2022); *Surrender*, PILOT Gallery, Riga, Latvia (2021); *Wonders of Democracy*, Sculpture Quadrennial, Riga, Latvia (2020).

Ron Ewert (b. 1982 Glendale Heights, Illinois) lives and works in New York. He received his MFA from the Painting and Drawing Department of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in 2012. He has had solo exhibitions at Good Weather (North Little Rock and Chicago), Atlanta Contemporary, S1 (Portland), and mild climate (Nashville), and his work has been presented in group exhibitions at La Kaje (Brooklyn), Johannes Vogt (New York), Roots and Culture (Chicago), The Green Gallery (Milwaukee), Good Weather (Chicago), Andrew Rafacz (Chicago), American Fantasy Classics (Milwaukee), Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago), and at

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Printed Matter, Inc.'s NY Art Book Fair and LA Art Book Fair, among others. He presented a solo booth with Good Weather at Liste Art Fair in June 2019. Ewert was a founder and co-director of The Hills Esthetic Center (Chicago) from 2010–2015.

Raque Ford (b. 1986 Columbia, Maryland) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Recent solo presentations include Good Weather (Chicago), Greene Naftali (New York), 321 Gallery (Brooklyn), CAPITAL (San Francisco), and Shoot the Lobster (New York). Group shows include Albright Knox Gallery (Buffalo), Greater New York at MoMA PS1 (New York), Good Weather (Little Rock), CLEARING (New York), Morán Morán (Mexico City), Greene Naftali (New York), Kai Matsumiya (New York), Roberta Pelan (Toronto), SculptureCenter (Queens), and Division Gallery (Montreal). Ford's work is in the collections of the High Museum of Art (Atlanta) and The Museum of Modern Art (New York).

COBRA (b. 1981 Chiba, Japan) is a Japanese artist and founder of XYZ Collective, an artist-run gallery based in Tokyo, Japan. Using various disciplines such as video, performance, sculpture, and painting COBRA intends to present trifling contradictions hidden within both art history and our daily lives, with a dose of humour. COBRA received his BFA in the Department of Ceramic, Glass and Metal Works from Tama Art University (Tokyo). He has extensively exhibited in Japan as well as in North America at 356 Mission (Los Angeles), Springsteen (Baltimore), Good Weather hosted by Gutter Box (Raleigh, North Carolina), The Apartment (Vancouver), Brennan & Griffin (New York), Shane Campbell Gallery (Chicago), The Green Gallery (Milwaukee), and Freedman Fitzpatrick (Los Angeles), among others.

Shizuka Okada (b. 1987 Gunma, Japan) is a Japanese artist lives and works in Kyoto, Japan. After graduating from Musashino Art University Department of Craft and Industrial Design, majoring in ceramics in 2010, Okada studied further at the Städelschule, Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste in 2013–2016. Recent group exhibitions and major solo exhibitions include “Interference” (Fig, Tokyo, 2021), “Contention” (Scheusal, Berlin, 2021), Never the Same Ocean” (HAGIWARA PROJECTS, Tokyo, 2021 [Curated by Tanaka Kazuhito (soda) and Ittah Yoda]), and “Faces” (SCAI Piramide, Tokyo, 2021), Slender and Long My Whistle (Fig., Tokyo), after the small hours (Utrecht/NOW Idea, Tokyo), and For Anything / For Nothing (Tomio Koyama Gallery, Kyoto).