

Callicoon Fine Arts is very pleased to present an exhibition by Sadie Benning. *Patterns* is comprised of a new series of wall-based artworks, including some of the artist's largest to date, as well as works that, for the first time, incorporate fabric and found photographs. Benning uses repetition and patterning in these works to evoke systems of social order and control, while also questioning the entrenched and compulsive behaviors that these systems—capitalism, war and gender binaries—create.

*Julie's Rug*, like all the works, is made from cut pieces of wood that have been coated with aqua-resin, sanded, painted and then reassembled. Comprised of a series of irregular rectangular forms arranged in rows and columns, the buffed and sprayed components in white, black, deep red and ocher rhythmically alternate across the large surface implying a continuation beyond the boundaries of the piece.

In the work *Mask*, a found black and white photograph is mounted onto the sculpted components. In this small work, the photograph is caught in a white beam emanating from a dark superhero-like mask—conveying a moment of perception and contact. What is seen is a domestic boundary wall made from highly contrasting patterned bricks.

In *Gun Blanket*, violence is implied by lever-like guns that fire out rows of rectangles all embedded in a black ground. They take aim at two neighboring paintings, *Cig 1* and *Cig 2*, which are graphic depictions of cigarette boxes with fabric inserts for logos, pictorial spaces that signify both compulsion and comfort.

In the largest work, *Rain Signal*, the blue diagonal dashes depict rain falling while rows of white rectangles signify the ominous invisibility of military communication systems.

Each work proposes a way out of prescriptive orders even while they formally articulate those orders. Benning develops a visual language that strongly argues for the referential and connotative direction of experimental forms. It is a language that is shaped by the interactive and combustible relationships between drawing, sculpture and painting.

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