

Jessica Vaughn
Cognitive Fatigue

June 20 – July 26, 2025
Opening Reception: Friday, June 20 | 6-8pm

David Peter Francis is pleased to present *Cognitive Fatigue*, a solo exhibition with New York-based artist Jessica Vaughn. Counting with machines and by administrative means, the works in the exhibition document material circulation in the world. Researching the function and construction of mechanical and administrative apparatuses like HVAC systems, medical impairment charts, and gaming lotteries, Vaughn illustrates their overlapping forms and aesthetic potentials to create distortions around economic, psychological and physical realities. The objects she works with are not viewed in isolation from the conditions of society as a whole, but rather display an engagement with the voracity of capitalism that makes culture available 24/7 to (maybe) last forever.

How do these measures of counting and invisible systems exclude—by design—certain understandings while maintaining others? How do they serve the political interests of select groups? How do they produce particular types of structures in the world and pass them off as reality?

Vaughn's practice uses cast-off materials and images—often collected from that which is overlooked via miscalculation—to convey complex histories of place, production, and use. In the gallery, office furniture and engineering components accumulate and tower, a small wall-mounted meter quietly counts the room's air output, while another monitor digitally logs the artist's personal and family mail from addresses in the United States through USPS Informed Delivery images. Graphics outlining impairment diagnostics are pulled from medical texts, and lottery tickets and scratch off cards move from NYC streets to the white walls. Vaughn's work returns to the (air) outside where wall-paintings on the roof, are made directly from illustrations found in government reports.

These presentations articulate how Vaughn interacts with the matter of everyday life, and how she chooses to re-arrange bureaucratic mechanisms of bodily and architectural order; all of which impact how we occupy a physical space. These strictures become forms for Vaughn to manipulate which, when separated from their original context, allow their meaning and control to be revealed back to us.

The artist would like to thank the following contributors for their help with executing this exhibition: Jacintha Kruc, Christopher Pagano, Charissa Chang and Miriam Kim.

David Peter Francis

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Jessica Vaughn (b. 1983, Chicago, IL) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BHA of Humanities and Arts from Carnegie Mellon University. Solo exhibitions of her work include: *I ♥ CUSTOMERS*, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf; *Our Primary Goal Is To Be Successful*, a survey exhibition at ICA Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; *In Polite English One Disagrees by First Agreeing*, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, TX ; *Exit Strategy*, Emalin Gallery, London, UK. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, DE; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, DE; and The Kitchen, New York, NY. Vaughn attended the Whitney Independent Study Program; the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council-Workspace, New York. She has received a Frieze Artadia Prize; Creative Capital Award; a Graham Foundation Grant and the Artadia NYC Grant. Vaughn's work is included in the public collections of the Studio Museum in Harlem, Whitney Museum of American Art; and Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, DE.

Jessica Vaughn
Cognitive Fatigue

Checklist
(clockwise from left)

Lobby:



Jessica Vaughn
Problem Sets, 2025
3 murals, paint, video monitor, camera
Dimensions variable
(JV112)



Room 1:



Jessica Vaughn
\$210 Stoppages, 2025
discarded lotto tickets on dibond panel, vinyl paint
34 x 28 inches (86.4 x 71.1 cm)
(JV102)



Jessica Vaughn
\$587 Stoppages, 2025
discarded lotto tickets on dibond panel, vinyl paint
60 x 84 inches (152.4 x 213.4 cm)
(JV101)



Jessica Vaughn
Building Comfort, 2025
display monitor, sensor, building system ventilation
4 1/2 x 3 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches (11.4 x 8.3 x 8.3 cm)
(JV100)

Jessica Vaughn
Cognitive Fatigue

Checklist
(clockwise from left)



Jessica Vaughn

Mail, 2025

display monitor, artist mail, USPS Informed Delivery

4 1/2 x 6 x 3 1/4 inches (11.4 x 15.2 x 8.3 cm)

(JV110)



Jessica Vaughn

Cinch Manufacturing Co (TRW) Union Steward, 2025

print on chiffon

18 x 24 inches (45.7 x 61 cm)

(JV113)



Jessica Vaughn

Depreciating Assets: Avenir Series, 2019

16 Steelcase Avenir Series workplace panels (Department of Education Austin, TX 2019)

Dimensions variable

(JV105)



Jessica Vaughn

"We will get what we need" ("Whole Person" Impairment Rating), 2025

2 color UV digital print on aluminum dibond panel

55 x 42 1/2 inches (139.7 x 108 cm)

(JV104)

Room 2:



Jessica Vaughn

"We are skilled workers" (Flexion and Extension Positions), 2025

2 color UV digital print on aluminum dibond panel

55 x 42 1/2 inches (139.7 x 108 cm)

(JV103)

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Jessica Vaughn
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Checklist
(clockwise from left)



Jessica Vaughn

Plenum, 2025

spirometer, air compressor, electrical floor box, silicone tubing, building air ventilation

Dimensions variable

(JV111)



Jessica Vaughn

"We Are Not Servants. We Are Not Machines" (Combined Impairment Values Charts), 2025

2 color UV digital print on aluminum dibond panel

55 x 42 1/2 inches (139.7 x 108 cm)

(JV106)