

Ehrlich Steinberg
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Wednesday - Saturday 11am-5pm

February 24 - April 18 2026
Opening: Tuesday February 24 5-8pm

Nature Morte, 1982–1988

Alan Belcher, Gretchen Bender, Jennifer Bolande, Louise Lawler, Kevin Larmon, Sherrie Levine, Ken Lum, Allan McCollum and Laurie Simmons, Richard Milani, Peter Nagy, Joseph Nechvatal, Joel Otterson, Steven Parrino, Richard Pettibone, David Robbins, Not Vital, Julia Wachtel

Ehrlich Steinberg is pleased to present *Nature Morte, 1982–1988*, the first survey exhibition dedicated to the influential East Village gallery Nature Morte, founded by artists Alan Belcher and Peter Nagy, active from 1982 to 1988. The exhibition features early works, some unseen in decades, both originally shown at Nature Morte or created during its six-year run. *Nature Morte, 1982–1988* includes represented artists Gretchen Bender, Jennifer Bolande, Kevin Larmon, Ken Lum, Richard Milani, Joseph Nechvatal, Joel Otterson, Steven Parrino, David Robbins, Not Vital, and Julia Wachtel, as well as exhibited artists Louise Lawler, Sherrie Levine, Allan McCollum and Laurie Simmons, and Richard Pettibone. The exhibition also features works by Belcher and Nagy, at the time represented by Cable Gallery and International with Monument, respectively.

Between 1982 and 1988, Nature Morte introduced a generation of artists whose practices resisted the dominant Neo-Expressionist painting then saturating New York’s hyped Downtown scene. Eschewing gestural, subjective, and emotionally charged aesthetics, these artists turned toward strategies of appropriation, photographic intervention, and a wry form of neo-conceptualism. Strongly influenced by the earlier example of Metro Pictures, Belcher and Nagy’s gallery sharply articulated contemporary art’s deepening entanglement within mass media, graphic design, and the logic of commercial display. Together, the exhibiting artists embraced a critical inhabitation of the structures of publicity, distribution, and reception, treating the languages of advertising, image-culture, and institutional framing as both subject matter and material.

Among the exhibition’s notable works are Louise Lawler’s 1985 installation *Interesting*, which combines wall graphics, photography, and text—shown for the first time since its original exhibition; Julia Wachtel’s fully hand-painted 1984 piece *Cartoon/Cartoon*; Steven Parrino’s formative 1982 painting *Seek and Destroy*; Joel Otterson’s 1986 sculpture *Euro-Chic*, included in his solo show at MoMA in 1987; Jennifer Bolande’s practice-defining 1984 sculpture *Movie Chair*; and Peter Nagy’s seminal 1987 work *Industrial Culture*. Presented alongside rare archival materials and ephemera, the exhibiting works highlight Nature Morte’s critical and lasting contributions to the international art world from the 1980s to the present.

The exhibition is accompanied by “Once More, With Feeling”, a newly commissioned text by Blake Oetting.