

CONNERSMITH.

January 15, 2013

LINCOLN SCHATZ: The Network
BENJAMIN KELLEY: New Sculpture
COBLE/RILEY PROJECTS: Watermarks

February 9 – March 30, 2013
→ opening night reception: Saturday, February 9: 6-8pm

LINCOLN SCHATZ: The Network :::::::::::::::

CONNERSMITH is very pleased to announce Lincoln Schatz's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Innovative and uniquely American, "The Network" presents a composite portrait of power in Washington, D.C. in new generative digital art, photographs, and installation.

Using three video cameras, Schatz recorded his interviews with 89 policy makers and cultural operatives to create "The Network," a digital conversation which was recently acquired by The National Portrait Gallery. Drawing inspiration from Richard Avedon's political portrait photographs, Schatz updates an art historical continuum that began with Raphael's sixteenth-century painting of Baldassare Castiglione as an eloquent embodiment of the Urbino court. Schatz blends artistry with technology, surpassing the Renaissance ideal of portraiture as a "speaking likeness" by giving full expression to the individual stories of his high profile sitters, who include Steve Case, Vernon Jordon, Rocco Landesman, Sandra Day O'Connor, Nancy Pelosi, John Podesta, and Eric Cantor.

After translating the raw video footage into analog format, the artist wrote digital code that accesses meta-tagged topics in all 89 interviews so as to present constantly changing sequences of sitters and concepts. Transitioning seamlessly from one speaker to another, the work continually generates a provocative nexus of contemporary ideas. In the gallery installation, Schatz brings the original context of these performative conversations to life, creating an immersive experience for his audience, whose personal perspectives will generate new relational meanings of the art.

Schatz's works are in the collections of The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA; and Fundación Privada Sorigué, Lleida, Spain.

BENJAMIN KELLEY: new work :::::::::::::::

CONNERSMITH. is pleased to present Benjamin Kelley's first solo exhibition with the gallery. In this new body of works the artist alters forms and fabricates structures to re-contextualize found objects, including a prison shank and a 1971 Chrysler Newport auto body. As Kelley deploys the historical and emotional content of his materials in a critique of industrial America, he engages with the theme of violence expressed in Francisco Goya's 19th-century print series, "Disasters of War." Kelley's sculptures evoke the timelessness of still moments immediately preceding or following violent encounters. As he explains, "When confronted by an inescapable threat, the ancient autonomic system of both humans and animals responds with immobilization. A state of such paralysis transcends evolutionary perspectives leaving evidence in gray."

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COBLE / RILEY: Watermarks ::::::::::::::::::::

CONNERSMITH. is also pleased to present Coble/Riley Projects' second exhibition with the gallery. Since 2009, Mary Coble (USA/DK) and Blithe Riley (USA) have collaborated on performance-based videos that explore tensions between site-specificity, gesture, narrative, and endurance. In February 2012, Coble/Riley Projects was invited to participate in a month-long Iaspis Residency in Umeå, Sweden. Working on a frozen stretch of sea, Coble and Riley fused video, performance and land art to create "Watermarks." Dense snow conceals the frozen seascape underneath, acting as a canvas on which the artists make marks and draw. Opaqueness and transparency arise from the simple actions of an unknown figure, who repeatedly uncovers layers of snow, ice, and water to reveal surfaces with varied properties of reflection.

There will be an opening night reception at CONNERSMITH. on Saturday, February 9th from 6 - 8pm. Artists in attendance.

For further information or images, please contact the gallery @ 202-588-8750 info@connersmith.us.com.

Conner Contemporary Art is now CONNERSMITH.
for more information: <http://www.connersmith.us.com/news/>

CONNERSMITH. is located at 1358 Florida Avenue, NE –Washington, DC 20002 in the Historic Atlas/H Street Area. Gallery hours are Wednesday - Saturday 11-6pm and by appointment.

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