

Sean Kelly Gallery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATHAN MABRY

NOW REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK BY SEAN KELLY GALLERY



Sean Kelly is delighted to announce that the gallery now represents Nathan Mabry.

Born in Colorado in 1978, Los Angeles-based Mabry has quickly established himself as a powerful young voice on the West Coast art scene with an impressive and critically acclaimed body of work that primarily includes sculpture and work on paper. Mabry was formally trained as a ceramicist and his large-scale sculptures are cast from clay models and found objects; though the scale of Mabry's work is often monumental, the intimacy of the artist's hand is always present.

Drawing inspiration from a variety of sources including archaeology, Dadaism, surrealism and minimalism, Mabry purposefully embraces different stylistic associations and makes references across the art historical timeline; in his own words, he "crashes" multiple aesthetics together. Mabry's unique voice is borne out of his unorthodox approach to this convergence of cultures, not unlike many of his artistic forebears in Los Angeles who share his interest in the uncanny and unexpected.

In Mabry's work, we are reminded that there are universal themes throughout visual history, the mythology of sex and religion prominent among them. Retroactively, societies have assigned a level of ritualistic import to artifacts; by surviving the passage of time, yesterday's quotidian objects become today's precious artifacts. Mabry co-opts these sacred relics for use in his work, but his deft and esoteric wit—often seen in the puns and idioms found in his titles—deflates their piousness. Mabry's practice, in its exploration of how objects function within the collective conscious, centers on a desire to create works that fully engage with the nuances and complexities of contemporary society.

In this pursuit, Mabry's work has most recently included reproductions of Native American, Pre-Columbian and African art totems that he places on bases derived from minimalist sculpture. With the keen insight of a cultural anthropologist, Mabry critiques the tradition of artistic appropriation of "primitive" objects pervasive in the work of modern and contemporary masters. What emerges, then, is an amalgam of his own making, a narrative extrapolated from historical sources that paves a path firmly situated in the context of the 21st century.

Nathan Mabry received his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and his MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. His work is in the permanent collections of numerous institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla. His work has recently appeared in exhibitions at the the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla; the Parrish Art Museum, South Hampton, NY; the Las Vegas Art Museum; and the 176 Zabłudowicz Collection, London. Mabry is currently featured in two group exhibitions: *American Exuberance* at the Rubell Family Collection in Miami through July 27, 2012 and *Sympathy for the Devil* at the Vanhaerents Art Collection in Brussels through November 13, 2013. He will be the subject of a solo exhibition at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas in February 2013. Mabry continues to be represented by Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles.

Sean Kelly will present new works by Mabry at our booth at the Armory Show, from March 8-11, 2012. Additionally, a new large-scale sculpture will be featured in the main hall of the fair located on Pier 94.

For more information about the artist, please visit our website: www.skny.com/artists/nathan-mabry/. For press inquiries, please contact Concetta Duncan at FITZ & CO at 212.627.1455 x232 or via email at concetta@fitzandco.com. For all other inquiries, including sales, please contact Janine Cirincione at 212.239.1181 or via email at janine@skny.com.