

KOHN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2015

SIMMONS & BURKE *DUTCH MASTERS*

Opening Reception: Friday, November 6th 2015, 6 – 8pm
Exhibition on view through December 19th, 2015



Los Angeles, California – Kohn Gallery is pleased to announce Simmons & Burke's third solo exhibition with the gallery, *Dutch Masters*, which explores and reinvents the digital archives of the Rijksmuseum (Netherlands). This vast collection contains some of art history's greatest masterworks and its digital archive is the first to be unconditionally offered to the public by a major museum. By processing, organizing, and ultimately indulging in the heritage and craftsmanship of this archive, the artists give a twisted tribute to the immense beauty and diversity of the institution's collection.

The densely layered works underscore the elements of separation intrinsic in Simmons & Burke's art practice: pigment-prints of digital collages, comprised of disembodied images from official photographic documentation of the paintings and drawings owned by the Rijksmuseum. As a result of this process, Simmons & Burke illuminate issues of authorship, obscure source material and build new layers of meaning atop restructured and re-contextualized works of artists past.

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Dutch Masters will be comprised of 8-12 digital collages, varying in scale. Although these works clearly express Simmons and Burke's own infatuation with the material and regard for the artists they borrow from, they also show a fondness for irreverence and bring to surface the inherent artificiality and subliminal messages of excess and power lurking within these canonized traditions.

For nearly a decade, Simmons & Burke have worked to accumulate a massive collection of information. Gleaning the internet for images, sounds and text, the artists have meticulously organized this data into intricate palettes from which they build dense digital collages, rich in narrative and psychological space. Frankensteinian in nature, these ambitious collages are comprised of thousands of pre-existing images (a single hand, wing, peeled lemon, wind glider or bird, for example), which are then appropriated and invigorated with new meaning and purpose. *Dutch Masters* represents thousands of hours of collection and assembly—a year-long meditation on this particular subject matter and body of data.

About Simmons & Burke

Simmons & Burke began their collaboration in 2006 while Case Simmons studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and Andrew Burke studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. In 2011 Simmons & Burke were given a Project Room at the Santa Monica Museum of Art for which they made a visual and sound installation of questions from major works of literature. In 2012 they participated in an impressive group show at the Kunsthalle Vienna alongside artists Cindy Sherman and Bruce Nauman. Their work is held in public collections such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Jumex Collection, Mexico City, The Me Collectors Room, Berlin, and most recently the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Simmons & Burke currently live and work in Los Angeles.

About Kohn Gallery

Since its establishment in 1985 by former Flash Art editor Michael Kohn, Kohn Gallery has presented historically significant exhibitions in Los Angeles alongside exciting contemporary exhibitions, creating meaningful contexts to establish links to the greater art historical continuum. Significant exhibitions include Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Soup Boxes* in December 1986, which opened just weeks before the artist's untimely death; *She: Works by Richard Prince and Wallace Berman* which brought together—for the first time—two generations of leading artists from different coasts; *Bruce Conner: Work from the 1970s*, which inspired the artist's first solo retrospective in Europe at the Kunsthalle Wien and Kunsthalle Zurich (2010). Exhibitions of important New York-based artists have included new works by Christopher Wool, Richard Tuttle, Mark Tansey, Kenny Scharf, and Keith Haring. Kohn Gallery represents important West Coast artists with long careers and rich histories such as Larry Bell, Joe Goode and Lita Albuquerque,

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as well as the Estates of Bruce Conner, Wallace Berman and Charles Brittin. Finally, Kohn Gallery boasts an exciting roster of emerging and mid-career artists including Simmons & Burke, Ryan McGinness, Rosa Loy, Dennis Hollingsworth, Mark Ryden, Eddie Martinez, Tom LaDuke and Troika.

Visit kohngallery.com for the latest information on upcoming exhibitions.

Artwork: *Big Still Life*, 2015, pigment print, 75 x 47 inches, edition of 5

Join the “Simmons & Burke ‘*Dutch Masters*’” conversation on social media by mentioning @KOHNGallery and using the #simmonsandburkeKOHN hashtag when posting.

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