

# LAUNCH F18

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Launch F18 presents *Helter Skelter*, curated by Sam Trioli and Christin Graham, the gallery's third chapter of exhibitions relocation back to its original Tribeca location. This group exhibition includes the work of Katie Bell, Joel Blank, Katherine Bradford, Caroline Wells Chandler, Jack Pierson and Adam Stennett. With this exhibition, Launch F18 slides into the world of sight-specific installation and quizzical works that create a haphazard atmosphere.

Brooklyn based artist, Katie Bell, has been working with the gallery to create a signature large format installation. Created-with found objects and strong geometric formations, Bell's work is composed of utilitarian elements juxtaposed with an obscured, yet well crafted color pallet.

Alongside her installation is the work of Adam Stennett. The chilling images of Lee Harvey Oswald, Doc Ellis and others were created with his use of hypnotizing lines and obscured faces. Stennett takes his viewers into a void of mysticism with a looming uncertainty to the likes of Albert Hitchcock. Well-known for his detail-oriented paintings, F18 takes a moment to showcase pieces that transcend the idea of *Helter Skelter* beyond the physical and into the psychological. Expanding on that component of the psychological is New Hampshire based artist Joel Blank. Blank's unique collages, use of color, and subject matter touches upon familiar narratives and with new and fresh perspectives. Though his works are small, and even sometimes quite, he captures a multitude of emotions, some difficult and some refreshingly pleasant.

Breaking that introspective moment, with a burst of energy and color are *Lil Kim* and *Lil Denis*, two pieces by Caroline Wells Chandler. Both characters, placed in a running pose, create the dialogue of happy-go-lucky or renewed optimism. Chandler successfully uses satire and color to capture the attention of her audience. A peculiar undertone is put forth as they wonder why the smiling, colorful characters appear to be running away. She uses gleeful gesture to illustrate this movement and strong out-lines to define not only a shape in space, but to also characterize the weight of an idea and how within that can be remarkable uncertainty.

Jack Pierson, recognized for his photographs and text installations, is being represented in this exhibition by a small work on paper. Pierson lyrically mixes grey's with different shades of blue and creates a constant pull, showing the ebb and flow of an artist's process, career and evolution. Pierson considered work from this series as a way of getting "back to the hand" and focused on this process while on a self mandated retreat to Captiva Island in Florida. Within Pierson's work one can feel the motion of the sea and its tides, as we too rise and fall through out nature's own harmonies.

Finally, quietly standing among the other artists is Katherine Bradford. Like Chandler, Bradford's Superman character seems destined for faraway places, almost flying right out of the picture plane. Her innocent painting adds a different note to the ominous conversation among the other artists, while still playing into the covert pieces that surround it. Flanked by red and blue, two obvious colors that are reflective of the

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American spirit, Bradford ties this family of artists together with the full tilt escape of her hotfoot superman.

**Katie Bell** (Born 1985) received her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been widely exhibited, including selected solo exhibitions at Penn State University (University Park, PA), Locus Projects (Miami, FL) and Mixed Greens (New York, NY). In 2016 she was awarded the Saint-Gaudens Memorial Fellowship. Bell currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

**Joel Blank** (Born 1991) is a Manchester, NH based artist. Blank's collages converses with social and political issues with both humor and abstract metaphor.

**Katherine Bradford** (Born 1942), whose career has spanned over 3 decades, has been recognized as one of the most acclaimed and admired painters in recent years. Several of her recent solo exhibitions have included "Fear of Waves," CANADA, New York, NY; "August," Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME; Samson Projects, Boston, MA. Bradford lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

**Caroline Wells Chandler** (Born ) received her MFA from Yale University School of Art. Selected solo and group exhibitions include Roberto Paradise, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Field Projects, New York, NY; and Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy. She currently lives and works in New York.

**Jack Pierson** (Born 1960) received his BFA from Massachusetts College of Art (Boston, MA). Pierson has had recent solo exhibitions at the CAC Malaga, Irish Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among other museums worldwide. Pierson is represented by Cheim & Read (New York, NY) and lives and works in New York, NY.

**Adam Stennett** (Born 1972) received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Willamette University (Salem, OR). His work has been the subject of three solo exhibitions at the gallery *31Grand* in 2004, 2005 and 2007. In 2013 his outdoor installation transferred indoors aka his "Survival Shack" was the basis for an exhibition at the Glenn Horowitz Bookseller space in East Hampton, New York and received widespread press coverage. Stennett's most recent solo exhibitions *Arctic Artist Survival Shack Project* and *Survival Paintings* was conducted at Pioneer Works in Brooklyn, NY in early 2016. Stennett lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.