

For Immediate Release:

MATERIAL

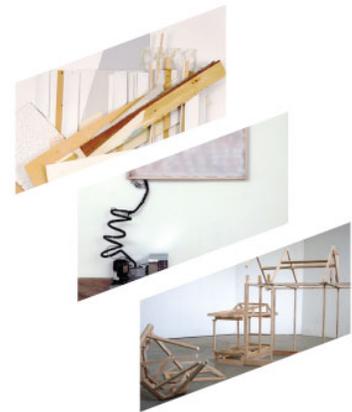
Curated by Liz Dimmitt

Katie Bell, Judith Hoffman, Jessica Segall

September 7 — October 13, 2013

reception: Saturday, September 7, 6:00--9:00 p.m.

@ 324 Ten Eyck Street, Future home of Storefront Bushwick



MATERIAL features work by Katie Bell, Judith Hoffman, and Jessica Segall that presents process and raw matter as content. Consumption, utility, lifecycle and resource privilege are themes engendered through found and repurposed building material and domestic supplies. Using wood, plaster, aluminum and plastic, the artists combine elements of everyday environments, objects that are familiar, sensory, and tactile. We know their touch and temperature by running our hands over walls and from the flooring beneath our feet. The artists' constructions give new life to common objects while also speaking to the history and future of materials and exploring questions involving the process of creation and decay. The why, how and "for how long?" of matter and fabricated objects.

Katie Bell's studio is a test site in which she gathers objects, then examines and manipulates them in the process of building and asking questions. The artist investigates the history of the material. What is behind it? In time what will it become? A building offers a visual metaphor for this inquiry: the surfaces and layers behind the walls, the multilayered structure composed to house us. Bell writes, "Pulling up the rug, opening the closet, and turning up the blinds are a source of material. The building process is one of excavation through time and place. It is through material that allows the ideas to unravel." The artist mirrors this process of unearthing and exploring with compiling and constructing.

Judith Hoffman's work embodies decay through the construction of ephemeral analogs of durable, man-made structures. These sculptural bodies are acted upon by both natural elements and the viewing audience, bringing about a recapitulation of the natural life of an object in an accelerated, observable time frame. Sculptures often employ skewed perspectives and disproportionate relationships to challenge the body's perception of the object and elicit multiple readings. Watching a thing fall apart brings closer to mind the object's makeup and assembly, revealing the normally concealed conditions of its production and the alienation brought about by its commodification. This transformation from complete to fragmentary and from sanctuary to decay allows us not only to reconceive existing structures but also to participate in processes that would normally go unnoticed. We may observe how material evolves, settles and withers over time.

Jessica Segall's multidisciplinary practice comprises sculpture, performance and video. A combination of wit and elbow grease, her work investigates the link between creativity, humor and survival. Segall is a builder of boats and bivouacs, a developer of off-grid technologies. Risk, vulnerability and a conscious ecology underlie all of her work. Within her practice, Segall maintains a position of radical optimism, contemplating extinction with resourcefulness as its cagey counterpoint. The artist uses the material of salvage to poignantly convey ideas of permanence and endurance, of saving and salvation.

About the artists

Katie Bell is originally from Rockford, Illinois. She received her BA from Knox College (Galesburg, IL) in 2008 where she studied fine art and race and gender studies. She graduated in 2011 from the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI) with an MFA in Painting. Bell has shown her work at a variety of venues, including Mixed Greens Gallery in New York, Nudashank in Baltimore, PLUG Projects in Kansas City, Okay Mountain Gallery in Austin, and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, MA. In 2011 she was an artist in residence at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation's Space Program in Brooklyn, NY. Bell lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Judith Hoffman lives and works in New York City. She holds an MFA from Pratt Institute and a BA from Smith College. She resided in Chicago from 2000-2003 where she attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Since 2010, she has been a resident at Sculpture Space, the Santa Fe Art Institute, Vermont Studio Center, ArtFarm Nebraska and a visiting artist at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her performances have been included at institutions, festivals and fairs including Art In Odd Places, NY (2011), Art Basel Miami, FL (2009), Deitch Projects, NY (2006) and Art Chicago, IL (2003). Her work has been exhibited nationally at locations including The Soap Factory, MN (2013), RH Gallery (2013), The Center for Contemporary Art, NM (2011), Kesting Ray Gallery, NY (2010), Art in General, NY (2010), Barbara & Barbara Gallery, IL (2010), Mason Gross Galleries at Rutgers University, NJ (2009), Gallery Aferro, NJ (2008), Roski Gallery at the University of Southern California, CA (2008), Chashama Gallery, NY (2007) and Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, NY (2007). Hoffman was a 2012 nominee for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant.

Jessica Segall is a multidisciplinary artist living in New York City. Her work has been exhibited at the 10th Havana Biennial, The National Gallery of Indonesia, The Queens Museum of Art, the Aldrich Museum and The National Modern Art Gallery of Mongolia. She is the recipient of several grants including Art Matters, the Leighton International Artist Exchange Program, and The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and attended artist residencies at Skowhegan, The MacDowell Colony, Bemis, Sculpture Space, Kuenstlerdorf Schoppingen and Socrates Sculpture Park. She is a graduate of Bard College and received her MFA from Columbia University.

About the curator

Liz Dimmitt is a Bushwick-based curator and arts enthusiast. Her projects aim to engage the public with art in unexpected places while examining the art market, popular culture and current events. She is the Director of Lehmann Maupin gallery and a partner in Truck Yeah and STRAY: Art + Media.

Storefront Ten Eyck is directed by artist Deborah Brown. The mission of the gallery is to show the work of emerging Bushwick artists and to revisit the work of established artists. We are located in a former factory in East Williamsburg/Bushwick, a thriving arts community that is home to 50 galleries, many run by artists.

Storefront Ten Eyck - 324 Ten Eyck Street - Brooklyn, NY 11206 - (917) 714-3813 - www.StorefrontBushwick.com

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DIRECTIONS: L train to Brooklyn, Morgan Avenue stop. Walk four blocks on Morgan to Flushing Avenue. Cross Flushing Avenue to Wilson Avenue. Gallery is located between Noll and George Street.