

EYKYN • MACLEAN

Whitney McVeigh: Elegy to Nature

20 March – 20 April 2018

Eykyn Maclean, New York

Eykyn Maclean is pleased to present *Whitney McVeigh: Elegy to Nature*, a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings, and found objects, which will run 20 March – 20 April 2018 at our New York gallery.

McVeigh (b. 1968), a U.K. based multimedia artist, has spent the last two decades traveling, reading, collecting, and making in order to explore the human condition – searching for aspects that bring us together, revealing our shared core human values. Part of this process has led to her amassing huge numbers of found objects, many coming from her extensive travels through Mexico, India, China, South Africa, and Central Asia. Each object, worn and showing its age, holds a small piece of history. McVeigh sees herself as the keeper of this history – the memories and experiences embedded within the pages of long-out-of-print books, antiquated cookware, or long forgotten photographs, cards, and letters. These objects fill her studio and serve as a backbone to the work she creates.

McVeigh's intense curiosity has led to a diverse body of work which includes drawing, painting, installation, and video projects. *Elegy to Nature* will focus specifically on the ink on paper works, most made within the last three years. These pieces sit somewhere between painting and drawing, abstraction and figuration, and two and three dimensions. McVeigh explores the multifaceted aspects of nature, seeing these paintings as symbolic human landscapes. Black ink flows onto thick woven paper, delicately manipulated into mountainous forms, ships on the water, bodies at rest. Some of the works have lines etched into the paper, an injury to the material that creates depth and movement.

An avid reader, McVeigh's work is informed by the many books that fill her studio – from philosophy and poetry to mechanical and scientific textbooks – all help feed her creative output. Like Cy Twombly, these books make appearances in the titles of her works, providing additional points of reference from which to view her process.

Elegy to Nature will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, featuring a new essay by renowned art historian, television producer, writer and presenter Simon Schama.

Notes to editors

Whitney McVeigh (b. 1968, New York) lives and works in London where she is a Fellow in Creative Practice at University of the Arts, London. In April 2018, concurrent with *Elegy to Nature* at Eykyn Maclean, McVeigh's work will be shown alongside that of Mike Kelley, Jeff Koons, Paul McCarthy, Raymond Pettibon, and Michelangelo Pistoletto, in a group exhibition at the Getty Villa, Los Angeles, entitled *Plato in L.A.: Contemporary Artists' Visions*. Also in the spring of 2018, McVeigh will guest-curate *Documentum*, co-founded by Stephen Shore, William Boling and Dawn Kim, a periodical archiving and examining the cultural ephemera of our time. Recent solo exhibitions include *Language of Memory* at Summerhall Arts, Edinburgh (2015-16) and *Inventory: Invisible Companion at Kettle's Yard*, Cambridge (2015). Group projects include *Not a single story*, Wanas Konst, Sweden and Nirox Sculpture Park, South Africa (2018), and *Glass Stress, White Light White Heat* at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). McVeigh presented the short film 'Birth': *Origins at the end of life* at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2015). She was featured in BBC4 television documentary, *Where is Modern Art Now* alongside Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker, Michael Landy and Sir Anthony Caro (2009) and in 2007 gave a short presentation of her work at Louise Bourgeois' Salon in New York.

For questions and/or hi-res images, please contact Susan Wallach at sw@eykynmac.com.

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