

MATERIAL LUST [American b.1981,1986]  
SITE131 presents WHOLE CLOTH  
WU JINAN'AN, BRIAN SCOTT CAMPBELL and ML  
01112020-03212020  
SITE131  
C/O 131 PAYNE STREET, DALLAS, TX 75207

**2020** SITE131 IN DALLAS BEGINS ITS FOURTH YEAR, JANUARY 11 - MARCH 21 2020, WITH "WHOLE CLOTH", A STUNNING EXHIBITION FEATURING THREE ARTIST EACH FROM TEXAS, NEW YORK AND CHINA. WHOLE CLOTH DISTINGUISHES ITSELF AS THE COMPLETE ENTITY, THE SOLID PIECE OF FABRIC THAT TELLS THE STORY OF HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND A HEART OF COMPASSION. THESE CHARMING INTIMATE PIECES AND ENGAGING WALL-SIZED WORKS DEFINE SITE131'S WHOLE CLOTH.

NEW TO TEXAS, ARTIST BRIAN SCOTT CAMPBELL'S SMALL, INTIMATE TONAL LANDSCAPES CREATE A DREAMLIKE LOCALE FAR FROM THE DRAMATIC SPACES OF THE OTHER TWO ARTISTS. CHINESE ARTIST WU JINAN'AN AND THE NEW YORK PAIR OF MATERIAL LUST SHOW US HOW THEY CREATIVELY RE-INVENT SUBSTANTIVE MATERIALS: JIAN'AN'S STRIKING USE OF WATER BUFFALO HIDES MEETS MATERIAL LUST'S INVENTIVE AMALGAMATION OF RELIABLE MATERIALS AND CAMPBELL'S VINYL PAINT.

CAMPBELL CREATES SMALL-SCALE FLASHE VINYL PAINT ON CANVAS WORKS THAT DEPICT ABSTRACTED LANDSCAPES IN GRAY SCALE, WHICH ARE PUNCTUATED BY DASHES OF FLAT COLOR. CAMPBELL ALLOWS HUMOR TO SURFACE WHILE ALSO DEFTLY HOLDING IT IN CHECK, TAKING A JAB AT THE SUBLIME, AND PERMITTING SOMETHING SOBER, EMBLEMATIC, AND DEEPLY HUMAN TO EMERGE. "BEING HUMAN IS SUCH A STRANGE THING, AND IN MY WORK I'M TRYING TO CAPTURE THAT." AS HE SAYS, "THE WORK EMBRACES THE AREA BETWEEN WHICH THE SUBJECT IS FORMED AND FORMLESS, INANIMATE AND ALIVE, EPHEMERAL AND SOLID." GAZING AT HIS FICTIONAL WORLD, ONE SEES MYSTERY AND WONDER IN GRAPHITE GREYS AND CHARCOAL COLORS. UNCANNY IN THEIR PRESENCE, THERE'S LOGIC AND ABSURDITY, ELEGANCE AND CRUDENESS COMING TOGETHER TO RECREATE A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE VIEWER. "A KINSHIP WITH ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS SEEMS TO MEET AN EVERYDAYNESS THAT'S KIND AND GENTLE," CLAIMS DIRECTOR/CURATOR JOAN DAVIDOW. THESE NEUTRAL IMAGINATIVE SETTINGS CREATE THE STAGE FOR WU JIAN'AN'S OVERSIZED WORKS TO FLOAT NEARBY.

IN CONTRAST WITH CAMPBELL'S HAUNTING SUBTLE PAINT ON CANVAS, THE TRADITIONAL CLOTH SURFACE OF PAINTING, WU JIAN'AN SURPRISES ALL WITH HIS THREE OVERSIZED 8-FOOT MASKS OF WATER BUFFALO HIDE. STRANGELY, HIS FOUND MATERIAL IS FROM THE WATER BUFFALO, WHICH SEEMS TO COMBINE HIS CLARITY OF MIND AND PURITY OF HEART. WHEN CREATING SHADOWS OF KNIVES, WU JIAN'AN USED DIFFERENT SHARP WEAPONS TO STAB, SLICE, AND PUNCTURE SOAKED BUFFALO HIDE. THE INTENSE ACTION AND RESULTING CATHARSIS SOUGHT TO ACCESS AN IDEAL STATE OF BEING. TO WU JIAN'AN, THE RESULTING ARTWORKS BORE A RESEMBLANCE TO ANCIENT AFRICAN OR SOUTHEAST ASIAN MASKS, STIMULATING A FEELING OF KINSHIP WITH ANCIENT HUMAN CIVILIZATIONS. THE FIRST 'MASK' WAS CREATED WITHOUT PLANNING. ALTHOUGH THE INDIVIDUAL CUTS INTO EACH BUFFALO HIDE WERE PLANNED, THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE MATERIAL AFTER IT DRIED REMAINED A MYSTERY. ONCE THE HIDES COMPLETELY DRIED, WU COMPLETED EACH 'MASK' BY PAINTING BOTH SIDES IN BRIGHT COLORS, IMBUING EACH WITH AN OTHERWORLDLY INTENSITY.

ARTIST-DESIGNERS CHRISTIAN SWAFFORD AND LAUREN LARSON LEFT DAY JOBS TO LAUNCH THEIR OWN STUDIO, MATERIAL LUST, CREATING OBJECTS THAT HOVER BETWEEN ART AND DESIGN. THE COUPLE TURNED A DESIGN BRAND INTO AN ARTIST COLLECTIVE. THEY SHOWED A NEW BODY OF WORK AMBIGUOUSLY FUNCTIONAL SCULPTURES WRAPPED IN MODERN MATERIALS AT A NEW YORK ART FAIR, AND THE PUBLIC RECOGNIZED THE WORK AS SCULPTURE. IN STUNNING SPARE SCULPTURES, MATERIAL LUST FOCUSES ON IDEAS OF OPPRESSION AND HOW THE POPULACE FINDS WAYS TO COPE BY DEVELOPING A PROTECTIVE SKIN. THEIR MODERN MATERIALS INCLUDE RUBBER, LATEX, AND PLASTIC AS WELL AS DEPENDABLE HARDWOOD, PLASTER, AND STEEL. "THERE ARE NODS TO FUNCTIONALITY," EXPLAINS THE PAIR, "BUT WE'VE CHANGED THE SIZING OF THINGS AND THE MATERIALS SO THEY'RE NOT FUNCTIONAL." MATERIALITY IS WHAT IT'S ABOUT FOR THE TWO ARTISTS: THEY USE LATEX, BECAUSE IT EVOKES THE SKIN, AND IT ALSO BRINGS ALIEN MAN-MADE THINGS TO MIND, SUCH AS LATEX GLOVES.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE ARTISTS AND GALLERIES: CHAMBERS FINE ART AND DUTTON IN NEW YORK FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WHOLE CLOTH. AT THE SOUTHEAST END OF THE DESIGN DISTRICT, SITE131 AT 131 PAYNE STREET, DALLAS 75207, IS OPEN FRIDAYS, NOON 5PM, AND BY APPOINTMENT. SPECIAL TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED. DIRECTOR CURATOR JOAN DAVIDOW AND ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR STEPHANIE DELAY CAN BE REACHED ONLINE AT [SITE131.COM](http://SITE131.COM) OR [HELLO@SITE131.COM](mailto:HELLO@SITE131.COM)

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**ML19007**  
wood plaster and latex  
60"H x 40"W x 2"D

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/ ABOUT FOUNDER JOAN DAVIDOW

BUILDING AN AUDIENCE BASED ON ARTWORK EPITOMIZES THE VISION OF ARTS PROFESSIONAL JOAN DAVIDOW. AS DIRECTOR/CURATOR AT DALLAS CONTEMPORARY AND ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART AND MCDERMOTT CURATORIAL INTERN AT DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART, DAVIDOW BUILT HER 30-YEAR ARTS CAREER IN NORTH TEXAS ON THE CONCEPT THAT ALL AGES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE CAN APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND ART OF THE 21ST CENTURY. HER MULTIPLE CAREERS IN THE ART WORLD INCLUDE HER ROLE AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR INVENTING A NATIONALLY AWARDED ART THINK PROGRAM, MASTER'S PROFESSOR AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, COMMENTATOR ON KERA PUBLIC RADIO, ART COLLECTOR, AND PHILANTHROPIST WHO DONATED HER ART COLLECTION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS.

/ABOUT FOUNDER SETH DAVIDOW

ENTREPRENEUR AND ART COLLECTOR SETH DAVIDOW NOW FOCUSES HIS SKILLS ON INVESTING AND MANAGING COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES IN TRANSITIONAL CORE NEIGHBORHOODS SURROUNDING UPTOWN AND DOWNTOWN, INCLUDING THE THOUGHTFUL RESTORATION OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL MID-CENTURY MODERN SPECIMEN. HE ENVISIONS SITE131 AS THE PERFECT SYMBIOSIS, NOT JUST ANCHORING A DESIGN DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SPACE WITH A NEW CONTEMPORARY ART ATTRACTION, BUT ALSO CREATING WITH HIS MOTHER A VENUE TO ENGAGE HER PASSION FOR UNVEILING NEW ART AND MAKING CONTEMPORARY ART ACCESSIBLE TO OTHER YOUNG COLLECTORS.

/ SITE131 MISSION

NONPROFIT ARTSPACE SITE131 PROPOSES AS ITS CORE PURSUIT TO SPOTLIGHT THE CONCEPT OF PAIRING – PRESENTING NEW ART FROM AMERICA AND ABROAD SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH NEW WORKS BY TEXAS ARTISTS. BY COUPLING BRIGHT, MOSTLY YOUNG TALENTS WHO DEAL WITH SIMILAR ISSUES, THE ART AUDIENCE SEES NOVEL CONNECTIONS AND FINDS A UNIQUE CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY ART IN NEW WAYS.

SITE131 FACES THE DRAMATIC CALATRAVA BRIDGE AND DYNAMIC DALLAS SKYLINE IN AN ENERGETIC CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER. A HUB FOR MAJOR PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, DALLAS ALSO BOASTS FIVE PRITZKER AWARDED BUILDINGS, A POPULAR ART FAIR, A CITYWIDE ARTS PRIZE, AND THE LARGEST FUNDRAISING AUCTION OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE U.S. LOCATED NEAR DOWNTOWN IN DALLAS' DESIGN DISTRICT, DEVELOPERS ARE QUICKLY EXPANDING ITS DESIGN AND LIVING OPPORTUNITIES.

SITE131 COMPLEMENTS DALLAS' ART COMMUNITY THAT INCLUDES AN ENCYCLOPEDIA ART MUSEUM WITH STRONG CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIONS, A WORLD RENOWNED SCULPTURE CENTER, MANY ARTIST-RUN SPACES, LARGE AND INTIMATE PRIVATE SPACES, COMMERCIAL AND UNIVERSITY GALLERIES, AND AN ARTISTS' RESIDENCY PROGRAM.

MMXX  
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