

FORMATIONS

Robert Buck

November 3 - December 22, 2018

Opening Reception: November 3, 6-8pm

Angela Meleca Gallery is pleased to present *Formations*, a solo exhibition by New York-based trans-disciplinary artist Robert Buck, his second with the gallery. *Formations* will be on view November 3rd through December 22, 2018, with a reception for the artist Saturday, November 3rd, 6 – 8 pm.

Formations introduces two new bodies of work by Buck, "Derangements" and "Painthings." Buck writes: "I refer to my new three-dimensional works not as sculptures but as derangements or recuperations. I neither cast nor carve material but recover and recombine objects leftover from, or intended for, other works that have accumulated in the studio. They're made over time impulsively, in spontaneous, even urgent, spells. When composing the works, my body is in motion. What in-forms them are the contingencies of the encounter between my animated body and the artifact objects. No derangement sits directly on the floor but is raised to hover just above it. This decisive, final gesture elevates the works within the confines of the white cube in order to maintain the vitality of their making and the dignity of their presence."

Also on view will be two "Painthings," wall hung works that use stretchers but not canvas. Developed after the artist's "The Letter! The Litter!" series, the works incorporate fabric that Buck whipped repeatedly with a belt caked with shoe-polish. The amended fabric is then ornamented with artifacts rediscovered in the artist's studio. As the facetious neologism of the series implies—pain, thing, ain't thing, hinge—the content of the work is an encounter for Buck with painful remainders, redeemed as art.

Buck's new work contends explicitly with sexuality, desire and love, or as French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan ciphered it, sexualization, that is, the logic of sexual difference. With these works, Buck endeavors to move beyond what can be said, known, or formalized of the sexual real, an artistic transit that renders poetry.

Of his latest artistic turn, Buck writes: "I call my art operation deranged because I work horizontally across a range of materials and mediums, and to transmit a touch of madness. My mad process is commensurate with our increasingly accelerated and uncertain era. Calling my work deranged or mental is to update outmoded, art historical terms, e.g., institutional critique, conceptual art, minimalism, etc., which today fail to successively transmit the escalating mayhem of hypermodern life and the dizzying effects it has on each One of us."

About the Artist: Robert Beck was born in 1959 in Baltimore, MD. He lives and works in New York City and far West Texas. As a work or act of art, in 2008 Beck changed his father's name by a single vowel to Buck. Beck graduated from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts Film and Television Department in 1983, and the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art a decade later. He has been exhibiting nationally and internationally since the mid-1990s. Beck/Buck's work is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Getty Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France. Earlier this year, Ron and Ann Pizzuti made an extraordinary gift of thirty-four of his works to the Columbus Museum of Art, OH. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Strange Attractor*, Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, TX (2017); *Robert Buck: States of America*, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH (2016); in collaboration with Donald Moffett, *Range: Experiments in New York 1961–2007*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2107); and *Vestige and Second Hand*, Ulterior Gallery, New York, NY (2018). Buck is also represented by Ulterior Gallery, New York, and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Electronic Arts Intermix, New York, distributes his moving image works.