

## KOPEIKIN GALLERY

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles

**Julia Rooney**

***paper paper***

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*Reception with the artist Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 PM*

Kopeikin Gallery is pleased to present ***paper paper*** by New York-based artist, Julia Rooney. Curated by Storm Ascher, this is Rooney's first exhibition with the gallery, and first solo exhibition in Los Angeles. The opening reception will take place at the gallery on March 16, 2019 from 6–8 PM.

Rooney's most recent work consists of wall pieces and a site-specific installation made from an archive of *New York Times* newspapers she collected in the year immediately following the 2016 presidential election. Using the newspapers as raw material, Rooney tore, cut and pulped the pages, and then reconstituted this matter into new paper using wheat paste, pigmented adhesives and stitching. The works resulting from this labor-intensive process refuse the binaries of true/false, real/fake, fact/fiction. Rather, they offer the viewer a way to revisit and reimagine the content contained within this year's-worth of news (2016-2017).

In Rooney's wall works, the many pages from a day's worth of newspaper become compressed into a single sheet—one which also acts as a frame with no material at its center, but rather an empty space, the wall. This surface, which the artist chose to paint gray, thereby becomes part of these works, defying the supposed neutrality of the white wall as backdrop. Rooney states, "Constructing these pieces as empty frames became a way of admitting a deficiency, an inability to know, and a way to pose the question, 'what is at the center of all this?' While the frame is usually secondary to the subject it frames, in recent years, I feel the frame of the media had become its own subject."

From the gallery's skylights, Rooney suspends dozens of paper strands, each one composed from many days'-worth of pages that have been pulped into small sheets and woven together with roofing membrane and gauze. These works mediate the viewers' passage through the gallery, disrupting their view of the walls, and slowing down their movement. While the current installation is site-specific, these modular strands may be rearranged in alternate configurations depending on the layout and lighting of other architectural spaces.

Rooney's practice includes working with the public. Throughout 2019, she will facilitate a series of papermaking workshops in which participants will collectively sift through these newspapers and create their own paper. While in Los Angeles, she will hold a workshop with POPS, an organization working with children affected by incarceration, in collaboration with L.A.-based artist Phil America.

Julia holds an M.F.A. in Painting/Printmaking from the Yale School of Art (2018), and a B.A. in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard College (2011). She has exhibited her work widely throughout the US, and has been awarded teaching and research residencies/fellowships through *SU-CASA* (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council), the Yale Prison Education Initiative Teaching Fellowship, an "Engaging Artists" Project Grant (More Art), Studio Arts College International (Florence, Italy), The Vermont Studio Center, and The Joan Mitchell Foundation.

For more information, please contact [info@kopeikingallery.com](mailto:info@kopeikingallery.com)

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