

# KATE WERBLE

**BETH CAMPBELL**  
**CLAUDIA HILL**  
**MELANIE SCHIFF**

## *here we leave solid ground*

October 17 – November 16, 2024

### **PRESS RELEASE**

*here we leave solid ground* is an exhibition of new works by 3 artists: Beth Campbell, Claudia Hill and Melanie Schiff. The title, taken from a phrase in a book about how to write, explains the strong narrative element that exists in all 3 artist's works: Schiff's photographs, Hill's woven paintings, and Campbell's text-based drawings. It is a nod to the future, when a close reading of an artwork based in the present expands an understanding of what is to come.

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Equal parts humorous, prescient and morbid, **Beth Campbell's** "My potential future based on my present circumstances..." drawings use a specific narrative moment from her life and then multiply it into a profusion of speculative possibilities. The tree diagram, a graphic structure used to visualize probability and hierarchy, is her means to channel anxieties about an overwhelmingly multiple future. Campbell began to make these drawings about her life as an artist in New York City in the late 1990's. The content was instantly relatable, demonstrating the inextricable entanglements of past, present, and future. In these new works, the first she has made in almost a decade, she suggests taking a moment to look both forward and backwards, taking into account actions and positions and the circumstances that led to them.

*Beth Campbell (USA, b. 1971 in Illinois) received her BFA from Truman State University in 1993 (Kirksville, MO) and her MFA from Ohio University in 1997 (Athens, OH). Campbell has held solo exhibitions at Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY (2019, 2017, 2012); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2017); Sculpture Center, Cleveland, OH (2010); The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2007); the Public Art Fund, New York, NY (2007); White Columns, New York, NY (2000); and Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, NY (2008, 2005, 2004). She received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011, a residency at Kohler Arts Center in 2010, and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Fellowship in 2009. Her work has been shown at institutions including Manifesta 7, Trento, IT; MoMA PS1, Queens, NY; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA; and Artists Space, New York, NY, amongst others. Her work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Campbell currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.*

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**Claudia Hill's** paintings invite movement. Woven on a 130-year old tapestry loom and made from hand-dyed fabric and various textiles collected over time, her works hang suspended from the ceiling, creating space to walk around and examine the materials they contain. Hill's background is in performance and costume design and thus her artworks have a strong performative element and emphasis on collaboration. The large double panel work in this exhibition, *Love is As Love Does* is an example of this relationship between Hill and her audience. The work was originally shown during *Weaving Roots* at Bärenzwinger, a German gallery space in a former bear cage built during World War II. The bear is the emblem of Berlin, and Hill's loom was installed in the gallery during the exhibition for visitors to work on weaving the panels together. Under her guidance, the audience participated in using the loom, emphasizing the openness of her abstraction and her desire to emphasize collaboration in both materials and construction.

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*Claudia Hill (born in 1969 in Erlangen, DE), studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, NY and the Parsons School of Design New York City, NY. Hill has held exhibitions and performances at Haus Kunst Mitte, Berlin, Germany (2023); Shedhalle, Zurich, Switzerland (2022); Bärenzwinger, Berlin, Germany (2022); Efremidis, Berlin, Germany (2021); Internationales Sommerfestival Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany (2020); Paris Internationale, Paris, France (2019); and HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin, Germany (2018, 2017). Hill's work has been exhibited at institutions including mumok, Vienna, Austria; the European Center for the Arts, Hellerau, Germany; and the DUMBO Arts Center, New York City, US. She has received numerous grants including the National Performance Network Grant, Dis-Tanz-Solo Grant, Fonds Darstellende Künste Grant, and the Berlin Senate for Culture and Europe Research Grant. Hill currently lives and works in Berlin, Germany.*

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**Melanie Schiff's** photographs span genres of portraiture, still life and performance, locating themselves within multiple histories of photography. Schiff has long innovated within a certain classicism, shooting exclusively in film. Strategic tweaks in subject matter or photographic technique kindle quiet insurrections and blur the lines between observation and the uncanny. Doubling is a staple of Schiff's work, occurring both between pictures and within single images. Schiff's use of repetition in *Chamomile 4* opens a gap between subject and object of gaze, disturbing photography's promise of spatiotemporal proximity. She elicits a literal second glance or a visual stutter. Her efforts remain within a staunchly material register: a veil of fabric in *Pains* slowing a camera's shutter. In a cyclical turn, the familiar is rendered strange by means of the *familiar*, suggesting the aching materiality of the most eternal motifs.

*Melanie Schiff (born in 1977, Chicago, IL) received her BFA from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and her MFA from University of Illinois Chicago. Schiff has held solo exhibitions at Night Gallery, Los Angeles; PATRON Gallery, Chicago; Kate Werble Gallery, New York; LAXART, Los Angeles; Kavi Gupta, Chicago; University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal; Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, CA; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL. Schiff has also exhibited at venues including Anton Kern Gallery, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; MoMA PS1, Long Island City; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN; Marian Goodman Gallery, Paris; Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe; and Foxy Production, New York. Her work was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Schiff lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.*