

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

LUKE STETTNER AND COMMON NAME
VICEROY, VICEROY, VICEROY
JUNE 15 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

This is a collaborative exhibition – which is to say an exhibition conceived of and produced by three people, across continents – that makes subject of killing machines and their methods of linguistic categorization. We are humored and we are horrified at the way military vernacular expropriates the language of our animal and nature bound world. The hornet is an all-weather fighter jet; the badger is an artillery vehicle; the bloodhound is a surface-to-air missile (so is a scorpion); the flying fish is an Exocet missile; the barracuda is a submarine. And on it goes. The language of war is flooded with the classification of animal science – of land and sea, animals living and extinct -- a phenomenon that normalizes armed violence and predation as something “natural” and affirms the environment and its sentient lives as one more resource to be colonized.

The image sets in the exhibition range in their material from Silkscreen, rope, drawing, photographs and risographs. Each uses distinct and parallel strategies to draw out this sinister language, making puns of pun, multiplying doubles, and blowing all covers.

Viceroy

A butterfly that mimics a monarch (scentless)

Viceroy

An American cigarette brand marketed towards veterans (“manly men”)

Viceroy

A proxy ruler (colonial)

Luke Stettner (USA, b. 1979 in Englewood, NJ) received his BFA from the University of Arizona and his MFA from the School of Visual Arts. Stettner has held solo exhibitions at Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY (2019, 2014, 2011); Stene Projects, Stockholm, SE (2019, 2015, 2012, 2010); Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, NY (2015); and The Kitchen, New York, NY (2014). His work has been exhibited at venues including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ; and the Wolfsonian Museum, Miami, FL. Stettner was a recipient of the 2013 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace residency and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2010. He currently lives and works in Columbus, OH.

Yoonjai Choi received her BFA in visual communications from Hongik University in Seoul and an MFA in graphic design from Yale University. Currently, she teaches a design and typography class at Columbia University GSAPP and has lectured at Harvard GSD, Yale University School of Art, and Rutgers University, among others. Ken Meier received his BA in the humanities from the University of Chicago and an MFA in graphic design from Yale University. Currently, he teaches a typography seminar at Parsons School of Design. Together, they run **Common Name**, a graphic design studio based in New York (and more recently, Seoul) working on various projects in the arts and cultural sector, for clients including The Met, Carnegie Museum of Art, Studio Museum in Harlem, Whitney Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Cooper Hewitt, Hauser & Wirth, and Even Magazine.