

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

THE UNNATURAL

ANNA BETBEZE, CAROLYN SALAS, MOLLY SMITH, SARAH E. WOOD

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 29

PREVIEW AUGUST 31 FROM 1-4 PM

OPENING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 FROM 6-8 PM

Kate Werble Gallery presents the work of four artists, Anna Betbeze, Carolyn Salas, Molly Smith, and Sarah E. Wood in *The Unnatural*. The show will consist of 5 new works that reconsider the human relationship to nature and to interpreted landscape. Together, the works emphasize the juxtaposition between a landscape of man-made materials with traditional ideas of natural beauty, reflecting the reality of a landscape shaped by human contact.

Anna Betbeze approaches material transformation through toxic and unnatural processes. For one of the works in this exhibition, Betbeze shoveled hot coals onto a store-bought Flokati rug. The coals and fire removed large portions of the rug, turned the wool into ash, creating the altered material for the final, formal composition. In a second work, Betbeze uses liquid materials such as resin and plaster to soak a wool rug until it is transformed into a hardened shell.

Carolyn Salas' large, cast plaster sculpture references a decayed, washed-out, and peeling landscape. Dyed and polished, the tension between the hard surface and undulating form evokes a desire for totemic, industrial, and impenetrable objects that aspire to immunity from corrosion.

Molly Smith creates environmental forms out of discarded papers, plastics and other man-made materials. In the work for this exhibition, Smith incorporates refuse in a standing, paper sculpture completed during her residency at *Dieu Donn e*. Her repurposing of the remnants from society suggests the possibility for a chance at regeneration.

Sarah E. Wood employs a spare and formal vocabulary using industrial materials that adopt complexity by mimicking natural forms. In her series of unique reliefs for this exhibition, plaster, ink and a rope are cast on top of plastic sheets leaving an impression on the surface. The final results hang as fossils of Wood's process, demonstrating a prior physical action and material weight.

For further information, images, and biographies on the artists, please email info@katewerblegallery.com. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, from 11 until 6 PM.