

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

POPE.L: *One thing after another (part two)*

534 West 26th Street, New York

September 13 – October 27, 2018

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 13, 2018



New York, August 16, 2018 – Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to announce *One thing after another (part two)*, a solo exhibition of new and retro work by Pope.L. This is the artist's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery and the first in New York since he was awarded the Bucksbaum Award from the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2017. *One thing after another (part two)* elliptically follows Pope.L's similarly titled exhibition at La Panacée in Montpellier— the artist's first major solo museum show in France.

Pope.L's practice often focuses on the uncertain but productive space between differences in language, class, race, and gender to create works that simultaneously enlist, mock and re-write convention. For Pope.L this gap is where ignorance interacts with hubris to create fresh tensions around authenticity, self and icon. The works on view in *One thing after another (part two)* are, as the artist notes, "a disgustingly neat pile of doubt, experiment, and denial shoved up hot against claim, leap, gambit, and caesura--your basic scabbling about in the dark..."

The exhibition features a dozen large Re-Photo collages, in which the artist has manipulated images of parts, mostly body parts, combining them with fragments from various print media to create "figural encounters" that have been scanned, re-printed and flattened into single large planes of paper. The Re-Photos originated out of Pope.L's desire to betray the artist's hand while simultaneously creating images highly suggestive of the body. The works display a hopped-up mechanical puppet-like feel yet function as a kind of tired but comic modernist chest-beating cum self-obliteration and dis-recognition. Pope.L says of these pieces: "What's key is the body that can't hold itself together; its wholeness is a cartoon."

The Re-Photo collages will be accompanied by a set of wall-mounted acrylic boxes, retro works, filled with bags of fertilizer and paint, each bag plastered with a photocopied image of a smiling Martin Luther King Jr. Titled *Rebuilding the Monument*, the pieces project a sad, humorous, highly irreverent sense of derogation in their staging of an esteemed historical figure's image. The works function as anti-monuments, bringing into question representation's take on Martin Luther King Jr., while at the same time putting in relief the artist's modus of figural obliteration and authenticity.

The exhibition space is anchored and divided by a black-box video installation which houses one of Pope.L's many versions of his video project, *Syllogism*. The video explores the rich and disruptive fantasy life behind deductive reasoning. Like systems of logic, social and political concepts are defined in relation to the group they serve, *Syllogism* stages these contours as blurred and soggy tropes of sex, power and creme pie.

"Space the place between the copy and the copy!"--Sun Ra

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About Pope.L

Pope.L was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1955, and lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. Pope.L's multidisciplinary practice uses binaries, contraries and preconceived notions embedded within contemporary culture to create art works in various formats, for example, writing, painting, performance, installation, video and sculpture. Building upon his long history of enacting arduous, provocative, absurdist performances and interventions in public spaces, Pope.L applies some of the same social, formal and performative strategies to his interests in language, system, gender, race and community. The goals for his work are several: joy, money and uncertainty— not necessarily in that order.

Recent exhibitions, performances, and projects include *One thing after another* at La Panacée, Montpellier (2018); *Flint Water Project* at What Pipeline, Detroit (2017); *Whispering Campaign* at documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017); *Claim (Whitney Version)* at the 2017 Whitney Biennial (2017); *PLAMA (The Spot)*, a commercial commissioned for *On the Tip of the Tongue* at Museum of Modern Art Warsaw (2016); *Baile* at the 32nd Biennial de São Paulo (2016); *The Freedom Principle* at ICA Philadelphia (2016) and MCA Chicago (2015); *The Public Body* at Artspace, Sydney (2016); *Less than One* at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2016); and *Trinket* at The Geffen Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2015).

Pope.L is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Bucksbaum Award, Joyce Foundation Award, the Tiffany Foundation Award, the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, the Bellagio Center Residency, Solomon R. Guggenheim Fellowship, Andy Warhol Foundation grant, Creative Capital Foundation grant, Franklin Furnace/Jerome Foundation grant, National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, Artists Space grant, and more.

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program, in both their Madison Avenue and Chelsea locations, fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Caption: POPE.L, Rebuilding the Monument (chicago version/the vitrine problem/three of three), 2007, compost, manure, photocopy, latex paint, acrylic, 25 3/8 by 44 1/8 by 9 1/8 in. 64.5 by 112.1 by 23.2 cm.
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Listings Information:

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