

HALF A HOLE

JIM DRAIN

February 3 – March 30, 2019

Parker Gallery is pleased to present *Half a Hole*, a solo exhibition of new works by Jim Drain. The exhibition delves deeper into Drain's concept of "utopia muscles." This phrase was originally used by writer Junot Diaz, imploring us to exercise our "utopia muscles" in the face of oppression, finding optimism and empowerment through a renewed sense of community and connectivity.

For *Half a Hole*, Drain presents two new sculptures: *Owl Perch* and *Alpine Bohemia* (both 2019). Fashioned from a piece of gym equipment, a Dada-ist welded pipe structure and a large slice of swiss cheese cut out of steel, *Alpine Bohemia* demonstrates a haphazard plan to synthesize unlikely objects. The sculptures relish an unwieldy, cobbled-together fusion.

Fabric wall hangings include reproductions of a woodblock print from the Die Brücke group of German Expressionists, interspersed with more slices of swiss cheese. Balancing the woodblock print with a slice of swiss cheese illustrates two halves of the whole composition, while the cheese itself contains half a hole. The print was originally used on the cover of the catalogue for *KG Brücke* (1910), a landmark exhibition demonstrating the remarkable collaborative spirit of the tight-knit group. This spirit reflects the utopia muscles Drain summons in this recent body of work.

A fascination with Die Brücke led Drain to the photography of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, which captured a bohemian lifestyle set against the backdrop of a bucolic alpine mountainside. This aspirational lifestyle, promoting the exchange of ideas over material goods, became the connective tissue to an eclectic body of work bridging craft, design, collage, drawing, photography and sculpture.

Jim Drain (b. 1975, Cleveland, OH lives and works in Providence, RI). Select solo exhibitions include *Zapf Dingbats*, Nina Johnson, Miami, FL (2018), *Love Letter to Varvara Stepanova*, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA (2017), *Utopia Muscle*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY (2017), *Seems/Seams*, Various Small Fires, Los Angeles, CA (2015), *I Will Show You the Joy-Woe Man*, Workspace at the Blanton Museum, Austin, TX (2009), *I Would Gnaw On My Hand*, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York, NY (2007) and *I Wish I Had A Beak*, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York, NY (2005). Select group exhibitions include *99 Cents or Less*, MOCAD, Detroit, MI (2017), *What Nerve: Alternative Figures in American Art, 1960 to the Present*, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York, NY (2015), *Transmission LA*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA (2012), *A New York Minute*, The Garage, Moscow, Russia (2011), *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll Since 1967*, MCA, Chicago, IL (2008) and *Uncertain States of America*, Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway; traveling (2005) and *The Third Annual Roggabogga*, Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2002).