

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

## Booth B4

Featuring work by: *Laura Ball, Leon Benn, Justin Favela, Linda Lopez, Liz Nielsen*

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Friday, October 9, 2020, from 6-9pm

\*\*\*No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time

Free and open to the public

Exhibition on view online and by appointment: October 9 – November 7, 2020

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Image: Liz Nielsen, *Mountain Vibrations*, 2020, analog chromogenic photograph, on Fujiflex, Unique, 12 x 30 in. (30.5 x 76.2 cm)

After months of quarantine and the cancellation of countless worldwide art events, David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring a selection of the artists and works that would have been featured in art fairs in 2020. *Booth B4* will include new works by Laura Ball, Leon Benn, Justin Favela, Linda Lopez, and Liz Nielsen. Presented in the main gallery, *Booth B4* turns misfortune into an experimental art fair-style presentation, complete with live storage and regular switch outs.

For the past 10 years, participation in international art fairs has been an integral part of David B. Smith Gallery's programming. While many fairs have pivoted to a digital format in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the experience of moving through a curated booth is lost. With *Booth B4*, the tactility of the works can be experienced as they were meant to be: in person. Featuring a selection of the gallery's artists, this dynamic exhibition bounds with colors, textures, and ideas, in a variety of media including watercolor, ceramics, analog photograms, mixed media, and paper constructed paintings. *Booth B4* seeks to explore the imagination, nostalgia, and a longing for and connection with nature, in these most unusual times.

### **About Laura Ball**

Laura Ball's work combines her technical achievements in watercolor with an ongoing part-psychoanalytical, part-environmental project she has explored over the last ten years. A recipient of numerous awards and grants, Ball has exhibited in galleries across the United States and internationally. Her work is in important private and public collections, including recent additions to the Denver Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and 21c Museum. Ball received her MFA in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley. Ball lives and works in San Diego, California.

### **About Leon Benn**

Leon Benn lives in Portland, Maine. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA) and the University of California, Los Angeles (MFA). He has had solo exhibitions at David B. Smith Gallery (Denver), Roberts & Tilton (Los Angeles), Stems Gallery (Brussels), and Carter & Citizen (Los Angeles). His work has been featured in group exhibitions at Able Baker Contemporary (Portland), Space Gallery (Portland), Brand New Gallery (Milan), the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, James Harris Gallery (Seattle), and Lisa Cooley (New York), amongst others.

### **About Justin Favela**

Justin Favela is a Las Vegas native working in the mediums of painting, sculpture, and performance. His work draws from art history, popular culture, and his Guatemalan/Mexican heritage. Selected exhibitions include Crystal Bridges Museum of Contemporary Art (AR), Denver Art Museum (CO), Contemporary Arts Center (NV), the Berman Museum (PA), and the Nevada Museum of Art (NV). When not in the studio, Favela is probably watching television or co-hosting his podcast *Latinos Who Lunch*. He currently has work on view in *Kissing Through A Curtain*, a group exhibition at MASS MoCA (MA).

### **About Linda Lopez**

Linda Nguyen Lopez received a BFA from California State University of Chico and a MFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Lopez has exhibited her work in New Zealand and throughout the United States including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Bentonville), Craft and Folk Art Museum (Los Angeles), Long Beach Museum of Art (Long Beach), The Hole (New York), the Jane Hartsook Gallery at Greenwich House Pottery (New York), and the Museum of Arts and Design (New York). She has been an artist in residence at The Clay Studio and the Archie Bray Foundation. In 2016, Lopez received the Lighton International Artist Exchange Program Grant. She is represented by Mindy Solomon Gallery in Miami, FL.

### **About Liz Nielsen**

Liz Nielsen is an experimental photographer based in Brooklyn, New York, USA. Her photographs are made without a camera and can also be described as light paintings or photograms. She works in the analog color darkroom exposing light sensitive paper and processing it through traditional photographic chemicals. Nielsen received an MFA from the University of Illinois, Chicago in 2004, her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2002, and her BA in Philosophy and Spanish from Seattle University in 1997. Liz has exhibited her work extensively including recent solo exhibitions in New York, London, and Paris. Her photograms have been featured at international art fairs such as Paris Photo, Photo London, AIPAD New York, Unseen Amsterdam, and Landskrona Foto in Sweden. Nielsen has been reviewed in the *New Yorker*, the *Guardian*, the *London Financial Times*, *LensCulture*, *Vogue UK*, and *FOAM* magazine among others.

### **About David B. Smith Gallery**

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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