



Gallery Mei and Baik Art are pleased to present *Axiom*, a two-person exhibition featuring works by Jonathan Casella and Pak Young-Ha. This exhibition will be on view from May 30- July 10, 2019. An opening reception will be held on May 31, 2019 from 7-9pm.

Axiom is an investigative delve into the ephemeral inspirations behind formalist painting. This unlikely pairing of artists focuses in on the existential fixations surrounding the creative practice at large. Geometric forms emerge through reactionary mark-making and aim to decipher the gravitas of one's physical surroundings and experiences. Although, at times stylistically opposed, works in this exhibition grapple with narratives pertaining to the natural landscape, metaphysical chronologies, and the cyclical manifestations of life and decay.

Pak Young-Ha creates large textural surfaces that linger somewhere between beautiful and grotesque as he alludes to the exploitative relationship man has with the nature. A feeling too viscerally inflicted to depict in classic illusionary fashion. Instead, viewers may stand before these large-scale works feeling the physical and ideological weight of the object, relative to one's own body. A dwarfing of the individual, as is often a humbling effect of natural formations. Pak's reductive color pallet and textural surfaces relate less to visual acuity and more to the artist's contemplation of ecosystems that surround societal institutions and domestic settlements.

Similarly, Jonathan Casella works to establish indexical signifiers that link the galleries function to the buildings physical attributes. Playing with notions of repetition, Casella's installation of vivid, yet intimate, configurations challenge modes of representation and graphic familiarity. From clocks that track the passing of time rather than indicating it numerically; to an encompassing indoor mural, Casella toys with formal expectations by breaking their austere vocabulary.

The unification of these two artists provide insights into the institutional-subversion of the creative process and the industrialization of organic forms. The various works in this exhibition insinuate a space and time beyond immediate observation. Perhaps, allowing viewers to engage with discourses beyond those of the art-historical canon.