

Hello Letters

Baik Art is pleased to present *Hello Letters* by NYC based artist Jason Tomme. The artist uses the idea of “location” as a base of inquiry through a variety of mediums. This debut marks the Tomme’s first solo showing in LA and will be on display from March 17 through April 20. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 6 pm – 8 pm.

Hello Letters builds upon Tomme’s previous exhibitions where he juxtaposes a fictional narrative accompanying the works on display. The narrative is delivered via a faux typewritten letter addressed to “Charles.” Having found himself in an unknown location (“this lonely land”), the author (Charlie) writes to Charles with casual updates and seemingly peripatetic musings that veer into catharsis.

In the main gallery, charcoal and graphite drawings depict an interplay of representation and abstraction. Tomme views paper itself as a location, where in the tradition of representational and tonal drawing, paper receives marks that yield form, shadow and light. Thus, paper as blank slate transforms into illusion. This foundational idea is captured in a repeating motif of horizontal lines that can be interpreted as folded paper, steps, wood planks, waves, or repeating stacked horizons. This motif is visible in all of the drawings and sets the stage for a “space of rendering” where controlled abstraction intersects with shadows, doodled lines, potted plants, various objects, text, and figurative forms.

The sculptures, also in the main gallery, are the newest additions to Tomme’s “unknown objects” series where the

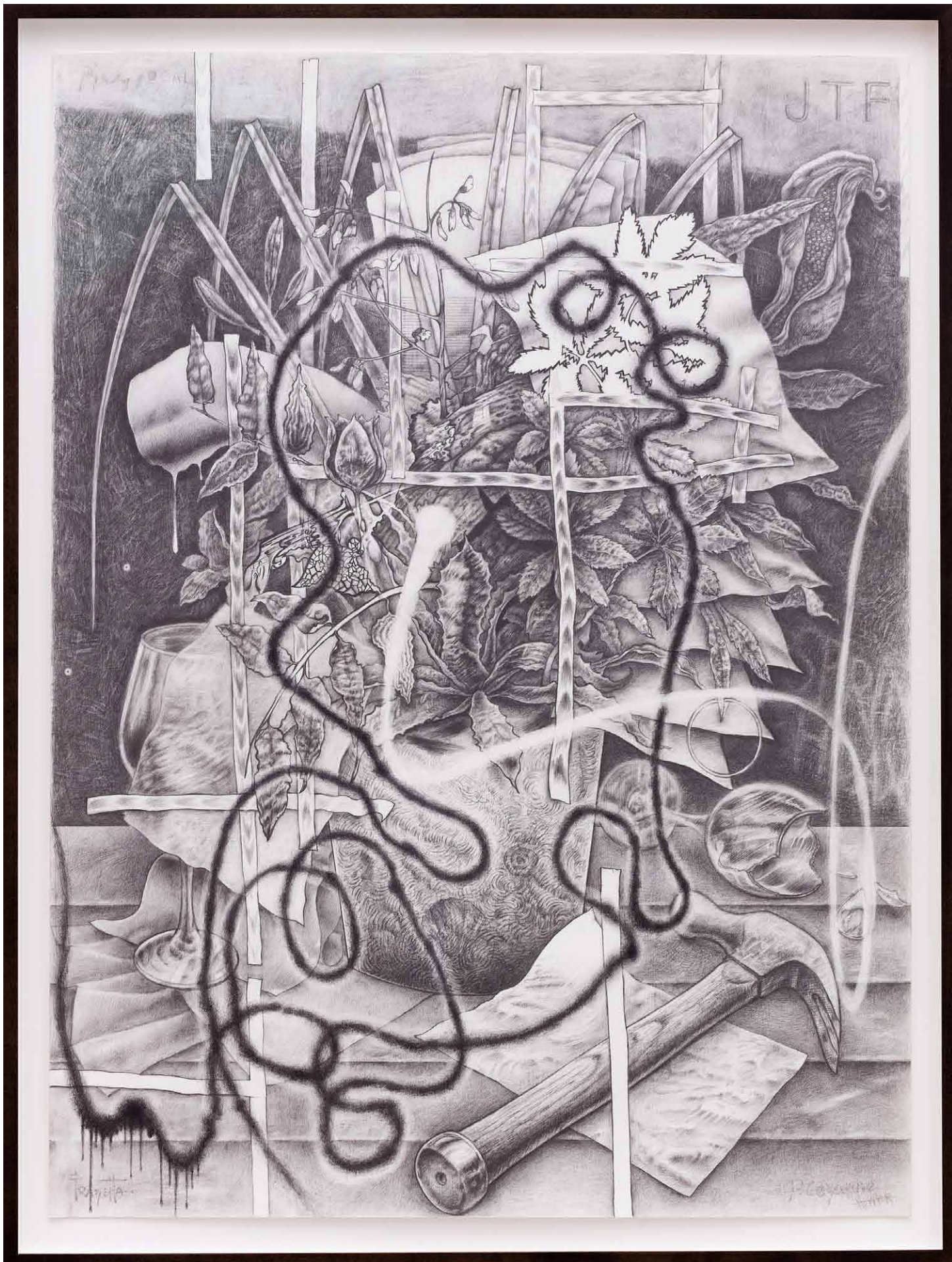
artist creates objects that are inspired by the fictional narrative found in the letter. The objects inhabit an ambiguous status— invaluable relic or forgotten refuse? Here the artist cites the film “the gods must be crazy” where the object (a coke bottle) gets hopelessly lost in translation. These “unknown objects” are made in the form of a necklace or garland — sculpted out of air dry clay and strung together.

The Photographic series titled “Friends” were taken over a three-year period at a single location in Tomme’s hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. The photos depict rocks swept into a graffiti-marked concrete runoff tunnel in various stages of light. Tomme’s visit to the site would document “the slow and seemingly private passage of time.” Here time is both geologic and youthful. Geologic time in the sense of contemplating the rocks as ancient entities. And youthful time, in the sense that the graffiti itself is fast and temporary (made by young people), where the tunnel walls visually transformed year by year through stylized text and lettering.

This is the first time that Tomme’s photos have been shown alongside his hand made studio-based work. Tomme views the photos as documentary in nature — curated depictions of our real world, and yet still illusions. On the other hand, his studio-based work embodies a crafted or imagined world where fact and fiction (plasticity and illusion) blur together to create the rarified art object. *Hello Letters* prompts the viewer to consider both worlds, how they overlap and what they might have in common.



Spring Hoax
2014
Graphite on paper
33 x 24.5 inches (framed)



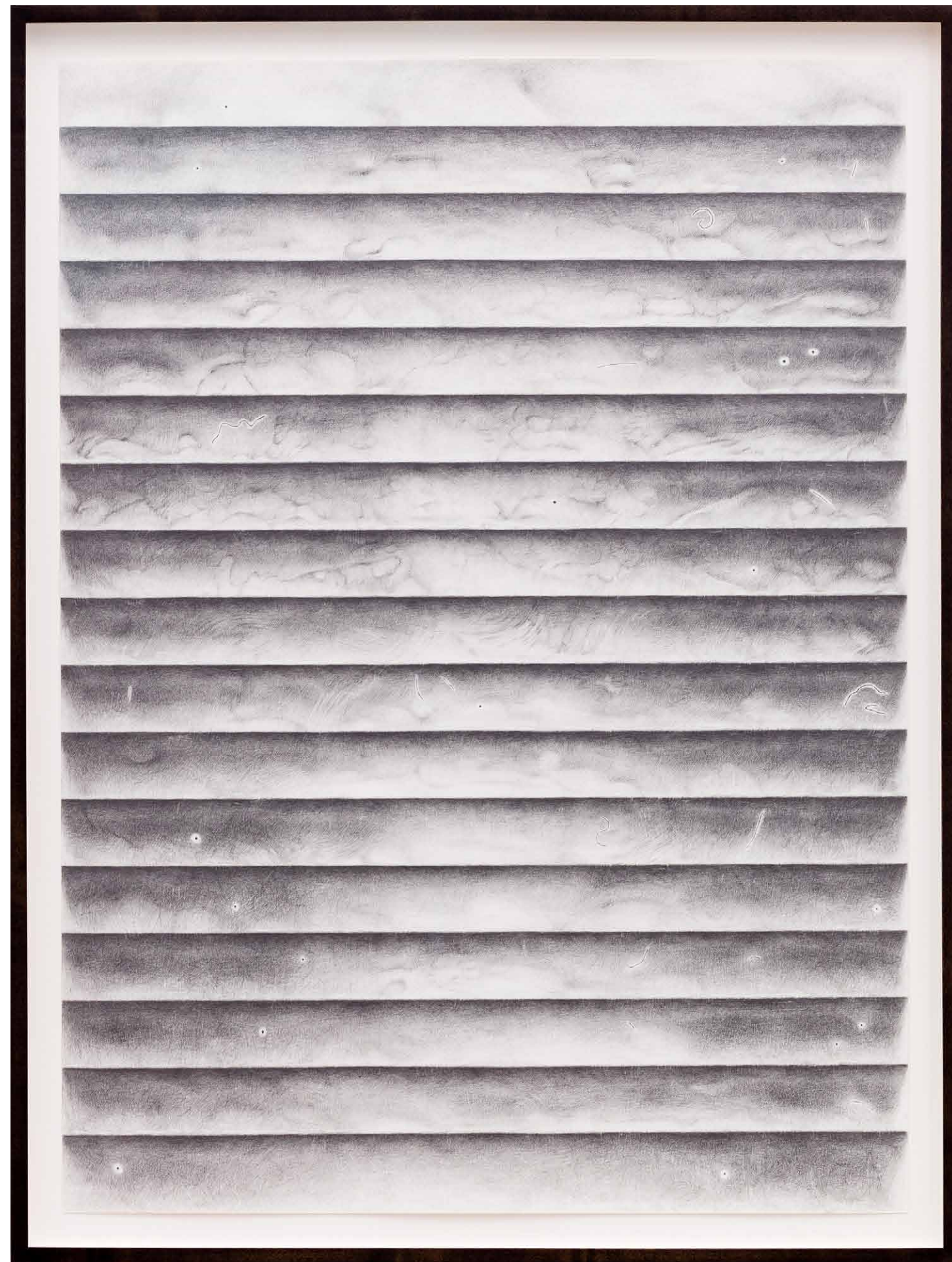
Cashmere Yer
2016
Graphite and chalk on paper
33 x 24.5 inches (framed)



Medusa
2015-2016
Graphite on paper
22 x 30 inches



Untitled
2016
Graphite on paper
33 x 24.5 inches (framed)



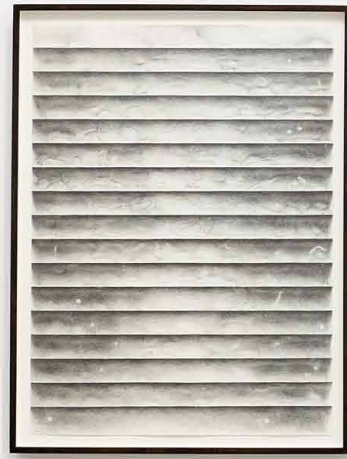
Hello Letters

2018

Graphite and chalk on paper

33 x 24.5 inches (framed)







Unknown Objects (Onion Bones 1)
Air dry clay, cassette tape, thread, and leather cords
Dimension variable



Unknown Objects (Onion Bones 2)
Air dry clay, cassette tape, thread, and leather cords
Dimension variable



Unknown Objects (Onion Bones 3)
Air dry clay, cassette tape, thread, and leather cords
Dimension variable



Unknown Objects (Onion Bones 4)
Air dry clay, cassette tape, thread, and leather cords
Dimension variable



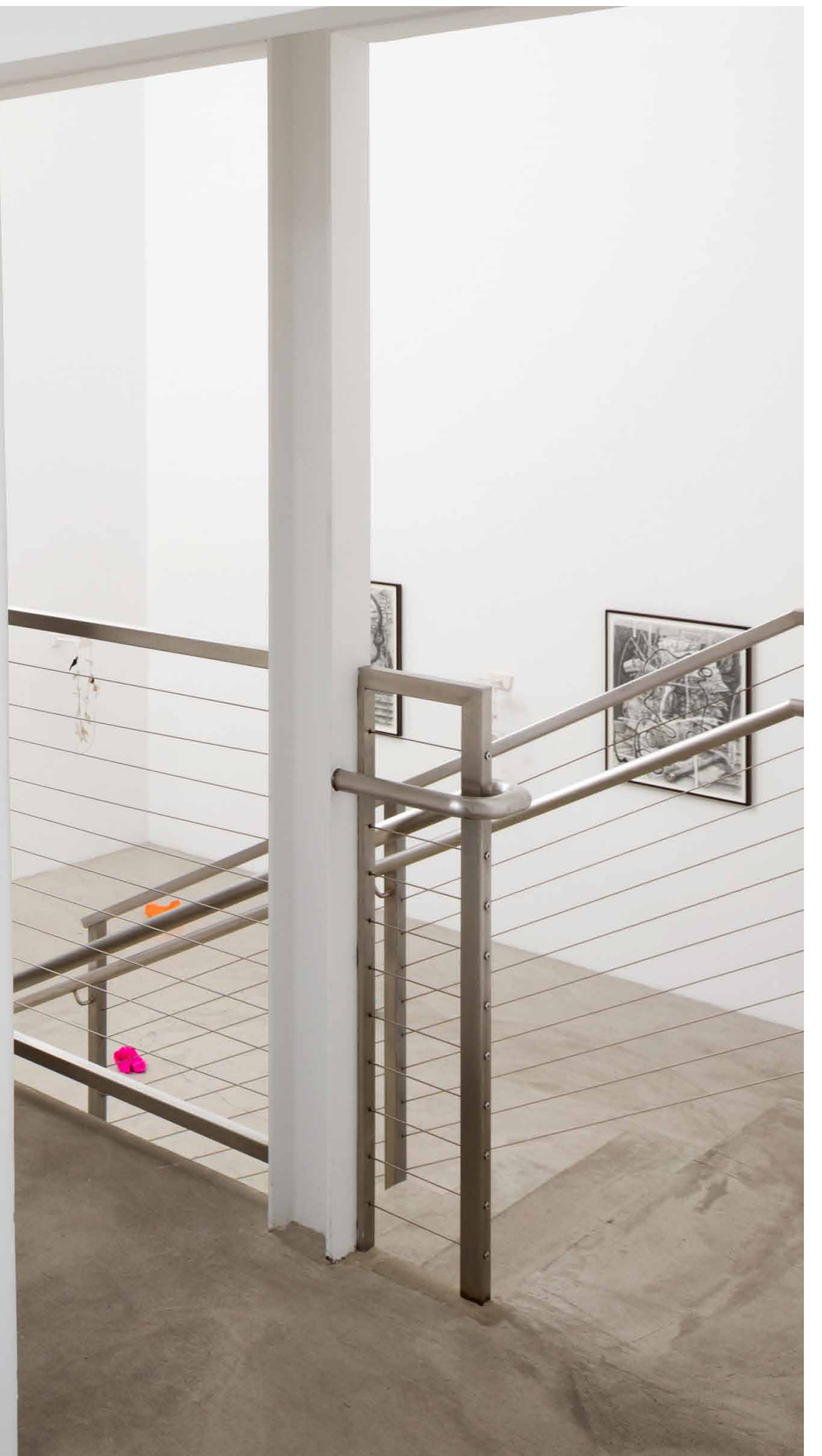
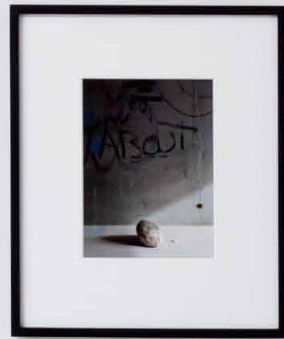
Unknown Objects (Onion Bones 5)
Air dry clay, cassette tape, thread, and leather cords
Dimension variable



Untitled
2018
Graphite on wall
123 x 56.5 inches









Friends
2013-2016
Photo on paper
7.75 x 5.75 inches (unframed) Edition 3/7



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2013-2016
Photo on paper
7.75 x 5.75 inches (unframed) Edition 3/7



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Friends
2013-2016
Photo on paper
7.75 x 5.75 inches (unframed) Edition 3/7

JASON TOMME

Born in Las Vegas, NV 1978

Lives and works in New York City

EDUCATION

2004 MFA, Yale University

2002 BFA, University of Nevada Las Vegas

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 *Cashmere Yer*, Fernwey Gallery, Chicago IL

2014 *In a Desert, On an Island, In a Room*, Theodore:Art, NYC

2010 *Paper Lead Poem*, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NYC

2008 Chinati Foundation *Artist in Residence Exhibition*, Locker Plant, Marfa, TX

2006 *Look Into the Crystals*, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY

TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2009 *Jason Tomme, Jonathan Callan*, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NYC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 *Romeo: Inaugural Exhibition*, Romeo, NYC.

3AM Eternal, 3901 Main St, Dallas, TX. Curated by Suzanne Weaver, Nicklass Stewart, David Quadrini.

2015 *Oceans 11*, Curated by Billy Sullivan, Ille Arts, Amagansett, NY.

Inside the Episode, Curated by Jack Pierson, Launch F18, NYC.

Salon Zurcher w/Theodore Art, Zurcher Gallery, NYC.

2014 *The Morning After*, Curated by Chason Matthams, Tyler Wood Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

2012 *All in All*, Ruth Phaneuf Fine Arts, LIC Queens, NY.

Final Frontier curated by Matt Jones, 340 Morgan, Brooklyn, NY.

Group Show, Budapest Art Fair, curated by Jean-Michel Ross.

2011 *Against The Way Things Go*, Curated by Andrea Hill, Gaser/Grunert Gallery, NYC.

Vista, Socrates Sculpture Park, Curated by Alyson Baker, Queens, NY.

2010 *Shape Language*, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NYC.

Irrelevant: Local Emerging Asian Artists who Don't make Work About Being Asian, Arario Gallery, NYC.

2009 *Art Basel*, Miami, Nicole Klagsbrun, December.

Open House, Curated by Nancy Barton and Michael Cohen, Strauss Institute, NYC.

Objection Affection, Presented by BOFFO, One Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn NY.

20 Years, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NYC.

2008 *View 14: Hooking Up*, Curated by Klaus Kertess, Mary Boone Gallery, NYC.

2007 *Diaspora, The Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland*, Curated by Dave Hickey Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas and 2008 travels to The Laguna Art Museum, Laguna beach, CA.

Horizon, curated by David Humphrey, EFA gallery, New York, NY.

2006 *Breezer*, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY.

2005 *In the Ring*, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY.

2004 *Protuberance(s)*, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY.

MFA Thesis Exhibition: Jason Tomme: Plus One Minus One, Yale University, New Haven CT.

Cross Town Traffic, Eli Whitney House, New Haven, CT.

2001 *Special*, Contemporary Arts Collective, Las Vegas, NV.

2000 *Hypergraphic*, Grant Gallery, Las Vegas, NV.

PRESS

2014 "Adam Putnam and Jason Tomme Will Splinter Your Mind", Village Voice Oct. 2014.
"It's good to be lonely: Jason Tomme at Theodore Art", Sept. 2014, Two Coats of Paint.

2011 "Jason Tomme", Minchki Blogspot,
<http://minchki.blogspot.com/2011/08/artist-jason-tomme.html>.

"Socrates Summer Exhibition", Boromag,
<http://boromag.com/arts/socrates%E2%80%99s-summer-exhibition-2011/>

2010 "Seven Artists of the Week" Chicago Art Review, www.chicagoartreview.com, Sept.
"Tomme In the Room" Picks and Reviews, Art Slant, www.artslant.com, Fall 2010.

"Photo Abstractions", Haber Art Reviews, Fall 2010.

Review of "Shape Language", New Yorker, July 26, 2010.

"Beyond Hello Kitty.." Hyperallergic, <http://hyperallergic.com/7958/asian-arario-gallery/>.

"September 2010 Artists" Interview Magazine,

http://www.interviewmagazine.com/art/september-2010-artists#_.

Jason Tomme @ Nicole Klagsbrun, Artnews

http://www.artnews.org/nicoleklagsbrun/?exi=23973&Nicole_Klagsbrun&Jason_Tomme.

- 2009 "Grids, Daubs, and Burns", John Haber, www.haberarts.com/kassay.htm.
 "Jonathan Callan, Jason Tomme, Mika Rottenberg" PAPERMAG ARTS, Mary Logan Barmeyer, Jan 22, 2009.
- 2008 "Fourteen/Hooking Up at Mary Boone Gallery", Art Fag City, Oct 28 2008.
 "Chinati Foundation Newsletter volume 13". page 72-73.
 "Chinati Visiting Artist", "Big Bend Sentinel" pages 1 & 6, June 19, 2008.
 "Sin City Slickers", Art in America, Swenson, Kirsten, page 63-67 (photo), Feb 2008.
- 2007 Knight, Christopher "Embracing and Refining Las Vegas Gaudy", Los Angeles Times, Page E1, Tuesday November 20, 2007.
 "Las Vegas Diaspora", Art Daily ,
<http://artdaily.com/news/22758/Las-Vegas-Diaspora-->.
 The-Emergence-of-Contemporary-Art-from-the-Neon-Homeland#.VMf7AlrF_HN
 "Hickey Does Vegas", Two Coats of Paint.
<http://www.artslantstreet.com/articles/show/18783>.
- 2006 "Editors' Picks," Artinfo.com, New York, NY, January, 2006.
- 2004 Finch, Charlie "Christmas Shopping." Artnet.com, New York, NY Dec. 21, 2004.

BOOKS, CATALOGUES & PUBLICATIONS

- Groundskeeper: Fuk Prefab II*, By Jason Tomme, 250 pg. Contributing essay by Nasi Lemak.
Chinati Foundation Newsletter, Volume 18, 2013, Photos and Essay: Robert Irwin at the Whitney Museum.
- Exhibition Catalog: Objection Affection* , Presented by BOFFO, 2009.
- The Highlights: Essay: The Voodoo of Robert Irwin*, June 2009.
- Chinati Foundation Newsletter*, Volume 13, 2009, pg 72-74.
- Exhibition Catalog: Diaspora, The Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland*, Essay by Dave Hickey, 2007.

Hello Letters

by Jason Tomme



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