



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

moniquemeloche is pleased to present

Justin Cooper

Board

November 3 - December 29, 2012

Reception for the artist Saturday, November 3, 4-7pm

moniquemeloche, 2154 W Division, Chicago, IL 60622

Performance by Justin Cooper and Ross Moreno

Yeti and Firebush

Friday, November 2, 10:30pm

Gallery Cabaret, 2020 North Oakley Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

For his third solo show at moniquemeloche, Justin Cooper transforms the gallery with his sculptural installation *Ooze*, utilizing readily available materials such as PVC pipe and trash bags to create volumetric "drawings in space." *Fields*, a new series of Cooper's signature large-scale drawings, rounds out the installation.

The exhibition's title is tactical, not descriptive, a playful primer for engagement with the work on view. The word "board" evokes the logic of the *homophone*, a linguistic term for a word pronounced the same as another but differing in meaning, despite differences in spelling. As Cooper explains, the word board, when spoken, has the "distinction of being simultaneously a noun, verb, and adjective. Each time the title is said aloud, the interlocutor must make a cognitive effort to distinguish whether it's referring to a plank of wood, taking a seat on a vessel, or being in a state of disinterest. It could also refer to a panel of experts or trustees or directors." By way of metaphor, the homophone logic alludes to the multivalence of Cooper's sculptural, photographic, drawing, and performance practice, while stressing the possibility for seemingly distinct categories to simultaneously apply to it. Cooper's work finds ways to be at once instinctual/ formal, physical/psychological, everyday/extraordinary, and mundane/otherworldly, occupying the overlap of a Venn diagram.

Cooper's drawings on paper are built up through the repetitive act of mark making to suggest a phantom, imagined microscopy at various degrees of magnification. These color drawings can seem at odds with the massive snaking installation, a stark black-on-white volume taking over the space. Here, the homophone also operates as a metaphor for the spatial, formal, and pictorial relationship between the installation and the drawings. Cooper immerses his audience in the "mental gymnastics" of creating meaning from the seemingly unconnected title *Board*, the installation *Ooze* and drawings *Fields* in the exhibition space. As described by the artist, "*Ooze* can be read as a 3-dimensional companion to the drawings, but a feisty one, complimenting and opposing in equal fashion. *Ooze* serves as a direct formal link to the visual action at work on paper. But this formal train is derailed soon enough, as the color has been drained from the sculptures as if sections of *Fields* attained volume and promptly died, leaving behind their skeletal remains."

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Zany, offbeat, bizarre, every possible adjective to describe the non-normative has been assigned to the impossible to categorize work of Justin Cooper, and yet his materials could not be more mundane. Cooper's spirited, performative intervention in the use of everyday materials reassigns these goods to props in his frenetic performances and drawings in both two and three dimensions. Once again, Justin Cooper utilizes the moniquemeloche gallery space to undertake spontaneous forms of serious play.

Justin Cooper (American, b. 1976, lives NY) has an MFA in sculpture, performance, and video from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005), a BFA from the University of Colorado (2003), and studied at the Sorbonne, Paris (2002). He had a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine (2007) and was included in the 2003 Colorado Biennial at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Cooper has performed and exhibited worldwide, in Hong Kong, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, London, Los Angeles, Mexico and Sweden. In 2012, Cooper and long-time collaborator Ross Moreno performed at the Sculpture Center, Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens, NY; Synchronicity Space, LA; Dixon Place, NYC; and RedLine, Milwaukee. Since his last solo show at moniquemeloche, Cooper has had solo exhibitions at Beta Pictoris, Birmingham, AL and the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Denver, CO. Recent group exhibitions include *Afterimage* at DePaul Museum of Art, Chicago, *hi*a*tus* at Grand Rapids Art Center, MI, and *Under Construction* curated by Omar Lopez-Chahoud at Hotel Particulier, NY. He will present a solo project at Hotel Particulier later this year, and will be among the three artists presented by moniquemeloche at the UNTITLED. Miami Beach art fair this December.

continuing at moniquemeloche:

on the wall: Type A, *Target* thru December 29, 2012

UNTITLED. Miami Beach art fair, December 5-9, 2012

Justin Cooper, Ebony G. Patterson, Sheree Hovsepian

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Gallery News

Kendell CARTER

- Solo show *We*, [University Galleries](#), Illinois State Museum, Normal IL opens Oct 27 (catalogue)
- Group show *Stretching the Limits* @ [SCAD Museum of Art](#) thru Feb 3, 2013

Justin COOPER

- Solo project @ [Hotel Particulier](#), NY Nov 2012
- Group show [Afterimage](#) @ DePaul Museum of Art, Chicago thru Nov 18

Sheree HOVSEPIAN

- Solo show *Column* @ [Gallery Etemad Dubai](#) opens Nov 8
- Group show @ Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery NY opens Nov 9

Rashid JOHNSON

- *Reactivation*, 9th [Shanghai Biennale](#) 2012 , thru Mar 31, 2013
- Solo show [Shelter](#) @ South London Gallery, UK thru Nov 25
- Traveling solo survey [Message to Our Folks](#) @ Miami Art Museum thru Nov 4

Ebony G. PATTERSON

- Group show [Bigger than Shadows](#) @ Dodge Gallery, NY opens Nov 3
- Congrats on being awarded a prestigious Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica for 2012!

Karen REIMER

- Solo exhibition @ [Owens Art Gallery](#), Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada opens Oct 26
- Group exhibition [Wall Text](#), Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago thru Nov 30

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