

CITY OF SEALS

Kristopher Benedict and Fabienne Lasserre

November 10 – January 5, 2013

OPENING RECEPTION – Nov. 10, 7-9pm

David Petersen Gallery is pleased to present ***City of Seals***, a two-person exhibition of new work by artists **Kristopher Benedict** and **Fabienne Lasserre**.

Where is this City of Seals? Surely it must be a fictional locale. A city of seals. But what if it isn't made up? Maybe it's not quite paradise, but it sounds awfully nice either way. Coastal and temperate. Easy on the eyes. Faraway. We are talking about the semi-aquatic marine mammals, right?

Or is this a city of emblems? Gaskets? Plugs or stoppers? Quarantines?

Google "seal." Then let's try again.

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The exhibition of paintings of Benedict and sculptures of Lasserre presents an absurdist situation: a problematic, fact-and/or-fiction, mixing of meaning and representation; yet an equally liberating non-location in which to make 19th century-looking oil paintings of 21st century internet-culled images, and biomorphic sculptures with two fronts, two backs, and no middle. Further expanding the ambiguity and complexity of these simultaneous states are the artists' ability to adroitly move from the abstract to figurative and back again so fluidly, seamlessly. It is as if they want to make something look like something without caring that it might not look like anything. Or is it that they want to make things that *don't* look like anything, but don't mind if they *do* look like something? But then they still might make something that is *supposed* to look like something, but they don't fuss over making it look like the thing they were trying to make it look like. Google.

Certainly the *seal* to which the exhibition refers is not to that of the verb, to close or to block. Nothing is hermetic in this space. Benedict and Lasserre's intuitive yet process-oriented works flow from wallspace to floorspace to spacespace. They effortlessly leak into one another while remaining as autonomous as oil and water. The simultaneity of togetherness and separateness creates a tension between the works that further stresses their indeterminacy and their refusal to completely coalesce. A barricade is a bond and a bond a barricade. And a seal is everything.

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Kristopher Benedict was born in Middletown, New York. He received his BFA from Cooper Union and his MFA from Columbia University. He has had solo exhibitions at Gallery Diet, Miami, FL and Tibor de Nagy Gallery, Jeff Bailey Gallery, and A.M. Richards in New York. His

work is in the collections of the Orlando Museum of Art, the Flint Institute of the Arts and RISD Museum of Art. He is currently an art professor at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in Milwaukee, WI.

Fabienne Lasserre is originally from Montréal, Québec. She received her BFA from Concordia University in Montréal and her MFA from Columbia University. She has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally, including Gallery Diet in Miami, Sikkema Jenkins, Regina Rex, and Jeff Bailey in New York, and Espacio Matucana 100 in Santiago, Chile. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn and she is an art professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD.

David Petersen Gallery

2018 Lyndale Ave. So.

Minneapolis, MN 55405

www.davidpetersengallery.com