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*It's Unlikely*

06/05/15 - 06/26/15

Opening June 5th, 2015 6-10pm

organized by Veronica Levitt

Kaia Marie Balcos | Joel Dugan | R. Blair Sullivan | Nat Ward

“Art makes the familiar strange so that it can be freshly perceived, “ - Viktor Shklovsky.

*It's Unlikely* takes Shklovsky's postulation as its point of departure, featuring work by Kaia Marie Balcos, Joel Dugan, R. Blair Sullivan and Nat Ward. The work included seeks to defamiliarize the subject and subtly unsettle the viewer. Rendering familiar media unusual, Kaia Marie Balcos and Nat Ward feature unexpected pairings of recognizable subjects or objects. R. Blair Sullivan employs non-traditional materials such as smoke and tape to create seductive compositions and high-contrast photographs. Joel Dugan's uncanny graphite drawings depict figures that are halfway between unplaceable and representational.

Rooted in traditional media; photography and graphite on paper, a surprising treatment transpires. Fleeting tensions are provoked through the application of contrast as seen in quietly unconventional usages of color, tone, subject matter, composition, or spatial arrangement, enabling the viewer to take an active role. Defamiliarization gives us space to reconsider the act of perception, allowing this reactive process to take form as a medium unto itself.

Kaia Marie Balcos (b. 1987, New Jersey) is a Brooklyn-based travel and lifestyle photographer. Her work has been featured in Time Out New York and was last included in a group exhibition at Bushwick Open Studios. Balcos was featured on Milk Made with her most recent series centered on Utah, which was later documented within a catalogue. She is currently working on “Balikbayan,” a series looking at the dual lives of second generation Filipinos in America and their relationship with their native land.

R. Blair Sullivan (b. 1980, Columbus, OH) received his MFA from The School of Visual Arts in 2007. Recent exhibitions include the Van de Weghe Gallery, New York NY; Reykjavik Living Arts Museum, Reykjavik, MOMA PS1, New York NY; The Art Handler Show, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York NY; The Journal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Frequencies Vol. 2, curated by Essex Flowers, Beverly’s, New York NY. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Nat Ward (b. 1983, Philadelphia, PA) received his MFA from Columbia University in 2013. Recent exhibitions include the International Photography Festival, Tel Aviv, Israel; Pyramid Scheme, Brooklyn NY; Come Together, Surviving Sandy: Year One, Industry City, Brooklyn NY; Jew York, Untitled & Zach Feuer Gallery, New York NY; and Fishing in the Dark, Violet’s Cafe, Brooklyn, NY. In 2012, Ward participated in the A-Z West Wagon Station Encampment with Andrea Zittel, Joshua Tree, CA. Ward currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Joel Dugan (b. 1977, Des Moines, IA). Dugan has recently participated in exhibition such as The Double Dirty Dozen + Friends, Freight + Volume, New York NY; Theriomorphous Entourage, Centotto Gallery, Brooklyn NY; and Canvas to Canvas, Recess Gallery, New York NY. Previous solo exhibitions include Ocea, White Walls Gallery, San Francisco CA and A Still Life, McCaig-Welles Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. Dugan lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.