

PRACTISE

Director **Zachary Buchner**

Email info@practise.info

Phone 773.822.6516

Bittman + Peterson

CIRCUS

7/20/19 - 8/26/19

Opening Saturday 7/20/19 5-8pm

PRACTISE is excited to present our summer exhibition *CIRCUS* with new work by Samantha Bittman and Bayne Peterson. *CIRCUS* brings together two artists who wed image and object in both delicate and complicated ways.

Bittman presents quintessential examples of her signature brand of abstraction. Utilizing a 12 harness floor loom, the artist weaves intricate objects comprising graphic patterns that once fully constructed are reconfigured with the application of acrylic paint upon their surfaces. Whether the compositions are modified in distinct areas or on singular threads, the painted marks become fully immersed into the body of the work. This sensitive addition allows the artist the ability to stretch formal possibilities beyond the programmatic confines of weaving. Merging distinct layers of media, Bittman poetically creates a perfect hybrid of image, material, and support.

Bayne Peterson's complex and laborious works share an analogous structure to Bittman's. Beginning as drawings and then carved from meticulously laminated and dyed plywood, Peterson weaves his web in three dimensions. Similarly integrating image and object, the works visually undulate through a series of convex and concave surfaces. Like Bittman, images are imbedded directly into the form, but instead of bouncing around the rectangle of the frame, Peterson's images traverse a flowing smooth surface.

Both artists execute their work with extreme precision and planning – yet the outcome is anything but predictable. Whether deciphering the layered process alive in Bittman's abstractions or modulating the waves of Peterson's sculptures – *CIRCUS* is a study in process and play by two artists who have mastered their own unique balancing act.

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SAMANTHA BITTMAN (American, b. 1982) lives and works in Brooklyn NY. Bittman received her B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004 and her M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2011. Recent solo exhibitions include *Oscillate*, COUNTY Gallery, West Palm, FL; *Shift*, Ronchini, London, UK; *Pattern Structures*, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO; *Material Data* at Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA; *Razzle Dazzle* at Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL; and *Soft Counting*, at Greenpoint Terminal, Brooklyn, NY. Bittman has exhibited extensively in numerous group exhibitions nationally and internationally.

BAYNE PETERSON (American, b) lives and works in Rhode Island. Peterson received his MFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2013. His works have been exhibited at the RISD Museum, Providence, RI, the Toyama Prefectural Museum of Arts and Design, Toyama, Japan, and the Museum of Arts and Design, NY, among other venues. Collections include the Museum of Arts and Design, NY, and the RISD Museum, Providence, RI.

PRACTISE is an independently run artist-centered exhibition space located in Oak Park, IL directed by artist and educator Zachary Buchner. Acknowledging a long tradition of alternative spaces in Oak Park and Chicago, our goal is to continue this lineage of community and discourse.

Hours: Sundays 1–4PM or by appointment
Contact: info@practise.info for all inquiries