

PRACTISE

Director **Zachary Buchner**

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Hunt + Lipp + Opera

Material Space

9/16/17 – 10/28/17

Opening 9/16/17 1-4pm

Artist Talk 10/28/17 @ 2pm

PRESS RELEASE

PRACTISE is thrilled to present our fall exhibition, *Material Space*, featuring artists Gina Hunt, Mevlana Lipp and John Opera. This show brings together a diverse group of artists, whose explorations into photography, painting and sculpture, overlap in each of the artist's unique interests in image, light, objecthood, vision, and process.

For *Material Space*, Hunt continues to investigate the complexity and subjectivity of vision in a new work entitled *Liquid + Polymer (BRGB V2)*, 2017, which consists of individually dyed fabric screens stretched across three identical supports. Each layer compressed together shifts and pulls to create a multifaceted, complex wave of light and color. Here the modernist grid is layered, warped and distorted to unveil complex visual and physical relationships. Whether the grid or screen of architecture, or the barely perceivable grid of our digital screens, Hunt's work continues to explore perception and movement, flatness and depth, light and space in complex and visceral ways.

Mevlana Lipp's contribution is a series of small intimate works built with layers of plywood, paint, stain and felt that all share the title *Resort*. The intricate cutouts resemble foliage and lattice, a dense image that is both romantic and tragic. Physically rough and worn, the surfaces signal the directness of human labor, resulting in a warmth that is reassuring in an otherwise claustrophobic compression of material and image.

Continuing his work with cyanotype and his interest in the fundamental qualities of light, John Opera presents a diptych entitled *Double Lens (positive/negative)*, 2017. Made partially with lasers, Opera pair's complex scientific phenomena, photographic reality and geometric abstraction in a work that is part photograph –part painting. Like his counterparts in *Material Space*, Opera looks deeply into multiple material histories in order to carve a new space for abstraction, meaning and experience.

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Born in 1987, Gina Hunt lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. She received her MFA from Illinois State University as well as an MA and BFA from Minnesota State University. Gina has mounted solo exhibitions at 65GRAND, Chicago, IL (2017), University Galleries, Normal, IL (2017), among others. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions and residencies both nationally and internationally. Gina will be the PRACTISE participant in the Terrain Biennial 2017.

Born in 1989, Mevlana Lipp lives and works in Dusseldorf, Germany. He was a Master student of Thomas Grunfeld at The Kunstakademie Dusseldorf. Lipp recently mounted a solo exhibition at Annarumma Gallery, Naples, Italy (2017) and has participated in numerous group exhibitions. This is his first exhibition in USA.

Born in 1975, John Opera lives and works in Buffalo, NY. John received his MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA from SUNY New Paltz. Opera is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Buffalo, SUNY. John has mounted solo exhibitions at Document Gallery, Chicago, IL (2017), Higher Pictures, New York, NY (2015), Loudhailer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2014) Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL (2012) CAM, St. Louis, MO (2011) among many others. Opera's work is included in numerous public collections including The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL, The Burchfield – Penny Art Center, Buffalo, NY and The DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

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