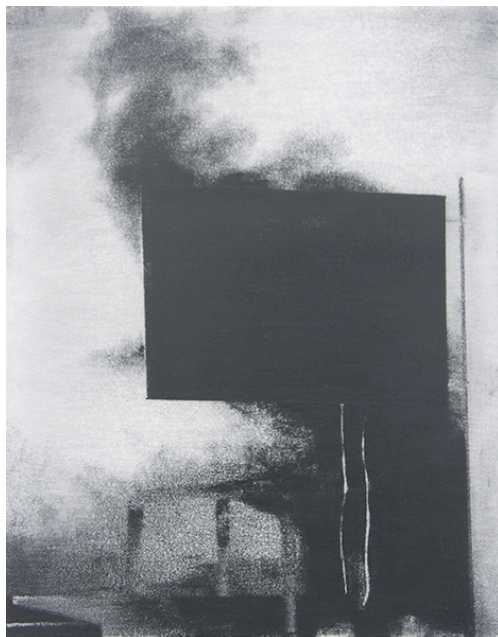


Trust Issues

16 September – 18 November 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, 15 September 2016, 6-8PM



LEFT: Augustus Nazzaro, *Banner*, 2015, acrylic on panel, 14 x 11 inches

RIGHT: Arielle Falk, *SUNSET BEACH AT KONA 1*, 2014, commercially manufactured inkjet wall mural manipulated by heat gun, twine, 72 x 39 inches

Ronchini Gallery is delighted to present *Trust Issues*, a group exhibition curated by Ryan Steadman featuring new work by the American artists: Arielle Falk, Samuel Levi Jones, Augustus Nazzaro, Rachel Rossin and Rose Salane, all of which are being exhibited at Ronchini Gallery for the first time.

Trust Issues is a show about the inherent fallacy of today's mass media.

Before the Information Age, the media was seen as an objective think tank that nevertheless ignored viewpoints outside its jurisdiction—as well as minority viewpoints within it. The internet, and social media in particular, exposed the factional nature of these institutions, and the media as we'd known it was splintered into thousands of partisan players who were forced to become servile to monetary interests. These biases are more transparent than ever, but the public is often left with more information than they're prepared to digest.

News hits that a paper owned by a political radical is secretly funded by a toxic industrial giant. Knowing that, can you still feel good about reading your favourite sex column in that newspaper?

The artists in *Trust Issues* upend, confuse or question the integrity of different reproducible medias—from traditional books to website imagery—altering intended meanings through different modes of abstraction. But beware: there are no simple allegories amongst these artworks, only a constant dissection of visual media. Because when everyone's guilty by association, who can you trust?

Arielle Falk finds and prints stock images of paradise—usually pictures of idyllic, unpopulated beaches—as large banners, which she then weathers with a heat gun. The pictures, which usually serve as backdrops for inspirational or seductive advertisements, are here rendered as artifice/artefact through their time-worn appearance, which subtly undercuts their intended usage.

Samuel Levi Jones sources out-dated encyclopaedias, law books or other institutional collections of information, violently removes their covers, and then sews them together to create abstract compositions that hover somewhere between rigorous minimalist grids and chance forms of Abstract Expressionism. In a meaningful act of defiance against these culturally and racially biased tomes, Jones renders these outmoded books useless. Yet he proceeds to turn them into something beautiful that mindfully alters art history's predominantly white lineage of 20th century abstraction.

Augustus Nazzaro makes virtuosic paintings that mimic the aesthetics of classified and potentially explosive media. His images of secret locations, hidden logos and masked documents are created with a laborious process of painting, sanding and repainting ad nauseam with precision detail. The effect is reminiscent of Xeroxed Zines, microfiche and infrared imaging, in other words, a visual language of subterfuge.

Rose Salane creates sculptures that fill in the blanks around fragments of information, stories, or conversations encountered in the public places where she happens to be creating. She fabricates newspaper clippings as means to inform her objects, which in turn, often become the protagonists of the stories she invents. Together they forge a delicate balance between idea and object, while showing us that we're never quite getting the "full" story.

Rachel Rossin uses both virtual reality and painting to investigate the slippage between the real and the digital. She combines Internet sources like video games and stock computer illustrations with objects from her real life such as a vase of flowers or a childhood drawing. The images in her paintings are further abstracted by computer programmes that twist the inherent meaning of these seductive Internet renderings; which are mostly geared toward garnering clicks and game plays.

About the Curator

Ryan Steadman (b. 1974, Greenville, S.C, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He was educated at the Pratt Institute, New York and The University of Georgia, USA. Selected curatorial background includes: *RE(a)D*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York (2015), *Save It For Later*, Sothey's S|2 gallery, New York (2014), *Ain'tings*, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York (2014), *So Different, So Appealing*, with Rachel Churner, 50 Gramercy Park North, New York (2011), *What's Bin Did and What's Been Hid*, and 106 Green Gallery, Brooklyn (2009). In 2013 Steadman was appointed curatorial advisor to the UNTITLED Art Fair in Miami Beach and has written art reviews for artforum.com, *The New York Observer* and *Modern Painters*, among other publications.

About the Artists

Arielle Falk (b. 1983 Washington, DC, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Solo exhibitions include: *Pablo's Birthday*, New York, NY, USA (2015), Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, NY, USA (2014, 2011), Auxillary Projects, Brooklyn, NY, USA (2013), *Envoy CUBE*, New York, NY, USA (2012) and *Envoy Enterprises*, New York, NY, USA (2010). Selected group exhibitions include: *Annarumma Gallery*, Naples, Italy (2016), *Art Untitled*, Miami, FL, USA (2013), *Associated Gallery*, New York, NY, USA (2013), *Big Screen Project*, New York, NY, USA (2012), *EXiS Experimental Film and Video Festival*, Seoul, Korea (2010), *BolteLang*, Zurich, Switzerland (2009), *The Candid Arts Trust*, London, UK (2009), *The Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology*, Nelson, New Zealand (2009).

Samuel Levi Jones (b. 1978 in Marion, IN) lives and works in Chicago, IL. Jones earned a B.A. from Taylor University, a B.F.A from Herron School of Art and Design in 2009 and an

MFA from Mills College in 2012. Recent exhibitions include *After Fred Wilson* (2015) at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art and *Unbound* at the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY. Jones is the recipient of the 2014 Joyce Alexander Wein artist prize, awarded by the Studio Museum in Harlem. Jones' work is in the public collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, and The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY.

Augustus Nazzaro (b. born 1984, East Islip, NY, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Nazzaro holds both a BFA and MFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. He has exhibited internationally and participated in the Moscow Biennial I. Selected group exhibitions include: De Buck Gallery, New York (2015), V1 Gallery, Copenhagen (2014), Koko Arts, Tokyo (2014), Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York (2014), Visual Arts Gallery, New York (2012). He has had numerous group exhibitions in New York with Thierry Goldberg Projects, Bitforms Gallery, Ballast Projects. Most recently he had a publication printed by Harper's Books, NY documenting his solo exhibition at Halsey McKay Gallery titled *In Pursuit of Shadows*.

Rachel Rossin (b. 1987, West Palm Beach, FL, USA) lives and works in New York, NY. She is currently a fellow at New Inc. in conjunction with the New Museum and was part the New Ideas Biennial in 2015 and 2013. Solo exhibitions include: Seattle Art Fair, New York, USA (2016), Zieher Smith & Horton, New York, USA (2015), Signal Gallery, New York, USA (2015), New Ideas Biennale, New York, USA (2013), The Cummer Museum of Arts, Jacksonville, USA (2013). Group exhibitions include: The New Museum, New York, USA (2016), White Circle, Brussels, Belgium (2016), Signs of Life Travelling Exhibitions, Paris, France (2015), The BHQF, New York, USA (2014, 2012), The Garnerville Center for Arts, NY, USA (2014, 2013). Her works are included prominent collections including The Borusan Contemporary Art Collection, Istanbul, The New Museum, New York and The Zabłudowicz Collection, London.

Rose Salane (b. 1992, New York, NY, USA) Lives and works in New York, NY. She graduated from Cooper Union in 2014. Selected solo exhibitions include: Jeffrey Stark, New York (2015), Four A.M, New York and Magic Gallery, New York (2015) Selected group exhibitions include: Francesca Pia, Zurich (2016), Taylor Macklin at Swiss Institute, Rome (2016), Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York (2015). She received the Ethel Cram Memorial Prize for Excellence and a full scholarship from Cooper Union.

Exhibition: *Trust Issues*

Dates: 16 September – 18 November 2016

Opening reception: Thursday 15 September 2016, 6-8pm

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

Location: 22 Dering Street, London, W1S 1AN

Tel: +44 (0)20 7629 9188

Website: www.ronchinigallery.com

Social Media Handles

Ronchini Gallery: Instagram and Twitter: @RonchiniGallery #RonchiniGallery

#TrustIssues #RyanSteadman #ArielleFalk #SamLeviJones #AugustusNazzaro #RachelRossin #RoseSalane

For press information and images please contact:

Stephanie Fleet at Ronchini Gallery

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7629 9188

Email: stephanie@ronchinigallery.com or press@ronchinigallery.com