

LEONARDO DREW

Opening May 16, 2019

Opening reception: Thursday, May 16, 6:00 – 8:00pm



Leonardo Drew, *Number 215* (detail), 2019. Wood, sand, and paint.

Galerie Lelong & Co. is pleased to present Brooklyn-based artist Leonardo Drew's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

For the past 30 years, Drew has transformed varied new materials into expressive assemblage, often distressing raw ingredients to evoke the passage of time. With this exhibition, Drew expands his practice to incorporate a wider spectrum of color and to explore new aspects of his materials. The main gallery features *Number 215* (2019), an energetic wood installation that is both sweeping in scale and intimate in detail, creating the appearance of an enveloping explosion that is frozen in time and space.

The exhibition coincides with Drew's first major outdoor public artwork, *City in the Grass*, an over one-hundred feet long by thirty-feet wide project commissioned by Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York. *City in the Grass* will be on view from June 3, 2019, through December 15, 2019. An undulating aluminum substructure serves as the base for the artist's use of colored sand — a new and unexpected material — and wood reliefs that evoke the designs of a patterned carpet. While *City in the Grass* responds to the Park's urban terrain, *Number 215* becomes an otherworldly viewer experience.

In the smaller gallery are several sculptural reliefs in Drew's signature technique, featuring neatly stacked pieces of cut lumber that extend into tree-like tendrils, all finished with a matte black wash. The works appear to be suspended in mid-transition, whether regeneration or decline, exemplifying Drew's long-standing interest in lifecycles and how human labor leaves traces of life behind in the material produced. Referring to how the work reads horizontality like written language, Drew says, "I think of it as making chaos legible."

Drew was born in 1961 in Tallahassee, Florida, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Drew's work is on view through May 19 in *Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection* at the Smart Museum of Art, Chicago. His works have been shown internationally and are held in numerous public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; and Tate, London. Recent solo museum exhibitions include shows at the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2013); Beeler Gallery at the Columbus College of Art & Design (2013); Palazzo Delle Papesse, Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena, Italy (2006); and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2000). Drew's mid-career survey, *Existed*, premiered at the Blaffer Gallery at the University of Houston in 2009, and traveled to the

Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

For press enquiries, please contact Danielle Wu, (212) 315-0470 or danielle@galerielelong.com.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

Join in the conversation with Galerie Lelong & Co. ([@GalerieLelongNY](#)), Facebook ([Galerie Lelong & Co., New York](#)), Instagram ([@galerielelong](#)) and via the hashtags #HélioOiticica and #spatialreliefdrawings