

NICK VAN WOERT IF I WROTE A POEM

Feb 1 – Mar 15, 2019
GRIMM Keizersgracht 241

Opening: Friday February 1st from 5-8 pm

GRIMM is pleased to announce *If I Wrote a Poem*, a solo exhibition of new sculptures by Nick van Woert at our Amsterdam Keizersgracht gallery. This is the artist's fifth solo presentation with the gallery and his first solo presentation in the Netherlands since *Violence* at GEM, Museum for Contemporary Art, The Hague in 2016.

The title of the show, *If I Wrote a Poem*, refers to an earlier work called *If I made a list of everything I touched in a day it would be a poem that could have never happened at any other time in history* (2018). It is safe to presume that these new works are that list and that this poem is about the difficulty of trying to understand the genealogy of materials. For van Woert, the materials we use are a direct reflection of who we are. He references the ancient Roman figure the Haruspex, who determine the health of a location by inspecting the dissected entrails of animals found in that location, and the French entertainer Michel Lotito (1950-2007), or 'Monsieur Mangetout' which translates to Mr. Eats All, who was famous for consuming everyday objects such as bicycles, a Cessna aircraft, and a coffin, to reinforce this idea. If Monsieur Mangetout was dissected by the Haruspex, his entrails would quite literally reflect his environment. What would the Haruspex interpret from his entrails? This thought begins to suggest that the figure and the landscape are interchangeable. You are what you eat.

There is a persistent, pervasive association connecting our identity to the materials we surround ourselves with. As landscapes, the works are not so much a depiction of a space, traditionally untouched and natural, but a conceptual consideration of how everyday materials, when turned on their head, can register life through a vocabulary that brings attention to the zeitgeist. Van Woert's sculptures are part anatomical - like a dissected body, and part landscape. These intuitive, visceral sculptures are a continuation of van Woert's interest in altered states. Nothing is what it seems - these works propose an architecture of illusion. "I'm walking around sober in an intoxicated landscape. It's a dream sequence where landscape and



Nick van Woert, *If I Wrote a Poem* (2019)

self-portrait melt together giving form to our psyche. It's like being in a dream - the laws that govern all things are suspended and nothing makes sense."

About the artist

Nick van Woert (b. 1979, Reno, NV) is a Brooklyn-based artist. He received his MFA from Parsons School of Art and Design, New York (US) in 2007 and completed residencies at Zabłudowicz, in Sarvisalo (FI) and at The Edward Albee Foundation in Montauk, New York (US). His work has shown widely, both nationally and abroad, including museum exhibitions at the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag in The Hague (NL); Margulies Collection at the Warehouse in Miami (US), MAMBo, the Museum of Modern Art in Bologna (IT); SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah (US), The Zabłudowicz Collection, London (UK), The Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art in Collegeville (US), Katonah Museum in Westchester County (US), Nevada Museum of Art in Reno (US), and at Sheppard Contemporary Gallery at the University of Nevada, Reno (US). Solo gallery exhibitions include GRIMM in Amsterdam (NL) and New York (US); Yvon Lambert in Paris (FR) and New York (US); L&M in Los Angeles, CA (US); Moran Moran in Los Angeles, CA (US); Patron Gallery, Chicago, IL (US).

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