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HINGE PICTURES

Eight Women Artists Occupy the Third Dimension

SARAH CROWNER, JULIA DAULT, LESLIE HEWITT, TOMASHI JACKSON, ERIN SHIRREFF,
ULLA VON BRANDENBURG, ADRIANA VAREJAO, and CLAUDIA WIESER

Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans

March 14- June 16, 2019

Hinge Pictures: Eight Women Artists Occupy the Third Dimension is an exhibition in eight parts, a confrontation with the patrimony of European modernism in the practices of eight artists: Sarah Crowner, Julia Dault, Leslie Hewitt, Tomashi Jackson, Erin Shirreff, Ulla von Brandenburg, Adriana Varejão, and Claudia Wieser. Across eight successive galleries, this exhibition presents practices that evolve from the flat plane of the wall to immersive sculptural environments.

The exhibition takes its name from Marcel Duchamp's writings about his masterwork *The Bride Stripped Bare By her Bachelors, Even*, more commonly known as *Le Grand Verre* or *The Large Glass*. *The Large Glass* is an abstract work in glass, paint, wire, and foil; it depicts a nude woman, suspended above a host of ogling bachelors. In his writing about the work, Duchamp calls for formal innovation and liberation, "[D]iscover the true form...develop the principle of the hinge..." In the same breath in which he calls for the shattering of painterly illusionism, tradition and confinement to the wall, Duchamp narrates the social and physical constraint of his subject: "The Bride accepts this stripping..."

With sensitivity to the social and aesthetic legacy of Duchamp's Bride, the artists of *Hinge Pictures: Eight Women Artists Occupy the Third Dimension* use formal constraint—a commitment to abstraction—in a demonstration of social liberation; theirs is a knowing, deconstructed rehearsal of form and color, weighted by the errors, limits and categorical proscriptions of Transatlantic Modernism. "*Hinge Pictures* is an exhibition that thinks critically about this histories, positions and structures we inherit. And it is an exhibition about the potential of those forms in the hands of contemporary artists with alternative perspectives about who and what occupies and shapes space," explains Andrea Andersson, The Helis Foundation Chief Curator of Visual Arts. Staging a performance of material history, spatial occupation, and social positioning, *Hinge Pictures: Eight Women Artists Occupy the Third Dimension* resuscitates abstract modernist vocabularies, marked by patriarchal and colonial histories, for use in a new feminist formalism.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a partner artist's book in eight-parts—a gorgeous, palimpsestual publication that layers the practices of Sarah Crowner, Julia Dault, Leslie Hewitt, Tomashi Jackson, Erin Shirreff, Ulla von Brandenburg, Adriana Varejão, and Claudia Wieser over the pages, history, and framework of Duchamp's imagination.