

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARNIE WEBER & JUSTIN JOHN GREENE



6 SEPTEMBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2019
PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2019, 6–8 PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY, NEW YORK

Simon Lee Gallery, New York, is pleased to present a two-person exhibition featuring the work of Los Angeles-based artists Marnie Weber and Justin John Greene. This occasion marks the first time Weber has exhibited at the gallery's New York location, as well as the second time for Greene, whose work was previously included in the 2017 group exhibition *An Uncanny Likeness*.

The exhibition opens a dialogue between two artists of differing backgrounds and generational affiliations, who similarly interrogate latent aspects of the cultural imagination. Both deal in densely populated tableaux depicting archetypal figures engaged in surreal narratives, synthesizing divergent aesthetic tropes into coherent, unified compositions. Weber draws her point of departure from Depression-era farm country, whereas the setting for Greene, is hyperactive, present-day Los Angeles. Both artists bring the gothic undercurrent resting just beneath the surface of American life to the fore.

Weber's collages are culled from the same conceptual foundation as her sculptures, films, videos, and performances; they portray a folkloric realm overflowing with young maidens, witches, spirits, and anthropomorphized forms. Representative of these works on view is 'The Corn Ritual,' 2019, a scene in which young girls donning witch masks pose before a cackling corn-headed scarecrow, inducting us into their ceremony.

Meanwhile, Greene extends an ongoing thread running through his practice, concerned with the unrelenting demands of post-Fordist labor. In the nocturnal paintings on view, subjects stay up all night, carousing in the street or fretting over the dining room table. Here, Greene's insomniacs are haunted by specters of the old order, evoking a sort of ambivalence on the part of the viewer. Could the curmudgeonly neighbor also be the sensitive caretaker of stray cats? Is Jacob Marley's ghost a welcome house guest? Are we hallucinating?

NOTES TO EDITORS**About Justin John Greene**

Justin John Greene was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1984 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Recent solo exhibitions include *A Warmer World*, Carl Kostyál, London (2019); *Welcome to Our Mess*, Simon Lee Gallery, London (2018); *Life Hack*, Smart Objects, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *O Buona Ventura!*, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2017); *Paintings*, DM office, Paris, France (2017); *Secret Slob*, Andrew Rafacz, Chicago, IL (2016); *Moonlighting*, Loudhailer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2016); and *Raw Deal*, Diana, Los Angeles, CA (2015). His work has been included in group exhibitions at Simon Lee Gallery, London (2019); Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, NL (2019); CFHILL, Stockholm, Sweden (2019), Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY (2017); Allen & Eldridge, New York, NY (2016); König Galerie, Berlin, Germany (2016); 356 Mission, Los Angeles, CA (2015); The Property Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2015); Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI (2014); and White Cube, London, UK (2014).

About Marnie Weber

Marnie Weber was born in Bridgeport, CT in 1959 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Recent solo exhibitions include *Marnie Weber: Songs that Never Die and Other Stories*, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA (2019); *Twisted Refrain: The Work of Marnie Weber*, Boone Family Art Gallery, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA (2019); *The Day of Forevermore*, Concordia University, Montreal, QC (2018); *Once Upon a Time in Forevermore*, MAMCO, Geneva, Switzerland (2016); *Marnie Weber: The Autumn Bear*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2011); and *Marnie Weber, Forever Free, The Cinema Show: A Film Retrospective and Installations, Sculpture and Collage*, Le Magasin Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Grenoble, France (2010). In addition to her work as an artist, Weber has a significant musical career. Originally part of the LA-based band Party Boys, she has subsequently released countless solo albums. Weber is widely known for her art-rock band *The Spirit Girls*, who are also featured as characters in her films. More recently Weber formed a collaborative noise band F who has a dedicated yet idiosyncratic following in Los Angeles.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

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www.simonleegallery.com

Image, L, R: Marnie Weber, *The Corn Ritual*, 2019, Gold leaf, encaustic wax, acrylic paint, collaged archival elements, on a framed wooden panel, 91.4 x 91.4 cm (36 x 36 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery. Justin John Greene, *Spirits and Libations*, 2019, Oil on linen, 127 x 106.7 x 3.2 cm (50 x 42 x 1 1/4 in.). Courtesy the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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