

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARNIE WEBER: THE SEA WITCH AND OTHER STORIES



11 SEPTEMBER – 31 OCTOBER, 2020
PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 6 – 8 PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY, HONG KONG

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of recent works by Los Angeles-based artist Marnie Weber, her first solo show in Hong Kong. This exhibition coincides with the Busan Biennial, in which Weber is presenting a major installation that includes her new film, *Song of the Sea Witch*.

Weber's practice, which spans performance, video, sculpture, music, costume and collage, is positioned at the junction of reality and fantasy. Referencing folklore, fairy tales and myths deeply embedded in our collective memory, Weber creates dream-like tableaux set in a realm unfixed in time. Blending the carnivalesque, the bacchanalian, the mystical and the absurd, she creates uncanny worlds that stand somewhere between fantasy and reality, thus inviting viewers to an exploration of the subconscious. The darkness of Weber's vision can be seen to lie in the precarious relationship between her parable-like aesthetic and her overtly adult subject matter: sex, drugs and death.

Exploring the loss of innocence, the community of living things, spiritualism and the subconscious through her practice, Marnie Weber has developed a series of psychologically-charged, neo-gothic fairy-tales. In *Song of the Sea Witch*, a theatrical new film in which the quiet life of a mysterious sea witch is threatened by a pack of discordant birds, the artist launches the viewer into a quaint, whimsical universe.

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 anthropomorphised forms. Her unearthly narratives synthesise divergent aesthetic tropes into coherent, unified compositions. In *Blooming Hollyhocks*, four quasi-cactus, quasi-female figures stand proudly against a brilliant blue sky, their floral mouths gaping wide, as though mid-song. Disorienting and mysterious, Weber's surreal collages elicit a response from viewers, which fluctuates between melancholy and delight, attraction and repulsion, humour and tragedy.

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About Marnie Weber**

Marnie Weber was born in Bridgeport, CT in 1959 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Marnie Weber & Justin John Greene*, Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY (2019); *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, Canada (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. Weber will be presenting at the Busan Biennale in September 2020.

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.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Marnie Weber, *Wisdom of the Owl*, 2019. Collaged archival elements, and encaustic wax on a framed wooden panel, 52.1 x 41.9 x 6.3 cm (20 1/2 x 16 1/2 x 2 1/2 in.) Courtesy the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

For further press information, images and requests please contact Zoe Gorell: zoe@simonleegallery.com / +44 (0) 207 491 0100.

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