

# LAURA TANNER GRAHAM

*Campaign Julienne*

4 October – 27 October 2017

## PRESS RELEASE

September 28, 2017 (New Orleans, LA) **JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY** is pleased to present *Campaign Julienne*, the debut solo exhibition of Tucson-based artist **Laura Tanner Graham**. Known for her meticulous drawings on hand cut mylar, Graham will unveil a series of new work with underlying socio-political commentaries. The exhibition will be on view from 4 through 27 October with an opening reception on Saturday 7 October in conjunction with the annual **Art for Arts' Sake**, an event that brings thousands of patrons to the **Arts District New Orleans (ADNO)** and through the gallery.

Graham discusses her newest pieces. . .

*This body of work began with the start of the presidential primaries. The months before and after the election managed to uncover many unresolved battles of America's complicated history – contentious race relations, sexism, nativism, and an ever-growing wage gap. The drawings in this exhibition record the inconsistencies of a society that simultaneously proclaims itself to be “post-racial” and “post-gender” while identifying with a “pull-yourself-up-by-the-boot-straps” mentality. I collage historical publicized images - advertisements, campaign posters, newspaper photographs and printed textiles - that parallel our current political and social climates into a singular narrative composition to document the cyclical and systemic nature of marginalization in America. The drawings capitalize on America's propensity for nostalgia and decorum, luring the viewer into facing these inequities through the detached lens of that which has already happened.*

**Laura Tanner Graham's** drawings and installations are often discussed as part of the Southern Gothic literary tradition, sharing similar themes with authors such as Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty. Borrowing from old advertisements and culturally specific printed textiles, Graham parallels historically significant events of the past with those of the present to explain the cyclical nature of Western politics.

Graham received her MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a BFA from Florida State University. She has exhibited nationally in both group and solo exhibitions including the Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the Athens Institute of Contemporary Art. She has also been a visiting artist at Tulane University and the University of Alabama. In 2016, Graham was awarded a fellowship and residency at the Ucross Foundation and the Vermont Studio Center. Graham is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Art at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

**For further information, press or sales inquiries please contact the gallery director, Matthew Weldon Showman, at [matthew@jonathanferraragallery.com](mailto:matthew@jonathanferraragallery.com) or at the gallery +1.504.522.5471. Please join the conversation with JFG on Facebook (@JonathanFerraraGallery), Twitter (@JFerraraGallery), and Instagram (@JonathanFerraraGallery) via the hashtags #LauraTannerGraham and #JonathanFerraraGallery.**

