

PAUL VILLINSKI

Reprise

5 April – 25 May 2018

PRESS RELEASE

4 April 2018 (New Orleans, LA): **JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY** is proud to announce *Reprise*, the fourth solo exhibition of New York-based artist **Paul Villinski**. Known best for his characteristic butterfly installations made of found aluminum cans, Villinski focuses solely on these works for this presentation while employing various musical instruments, an antique frame and a new, unique patina. The exhibition will be on view from 5 April through 25 May 2018 with special opening receptions coinciding with the **Arts District of New Orleans' (ADNO) First Saturday Gallery Openings** on Saturday, 7 April from 6-9pm and a second on 5 May from 6-11pm for the event **Jammin' On Julia**, which brings live music, food and drink vendors, public art and thousands of arts patrons together for a Julia Street block party.

The artist discusses the new body of work . . .

Who leaves these crushed beer cans, this forlorn evidence, scattered in the streets of the city? I take these "dead soldiers," every one of them once raised to someone's lips, and breathe new life into them, changing them into images that suggest the possibility of change itself. A kind of conceptual unity develops between materials, process and imagery: my practice in the studio mimics the act of transformation that butterflies symbolize everywhere, in all cultures.

PAUL VILLINSKI has created studio and large-scale artworks for more than three decades. Villinski was born in York, Maine, USA, in 1960, son of an Air Force navigator. He has lived and worked in New York City since 1982. A scenic route through the educational system included stops at Phillips Exeter Academy and the Massachusetts College of Art, and a BFA with honors from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1984. He lives with his partner, the painter Amy Park, and their son, Lark, in their studios in Long Island City, NY.

His work has been included in numerous exhibitions nationally. A mid-career retrospective, "Farther," is currently on view at The Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, VA, through July, 2018. Recent solo exhibitions include "Paul Villinski: Burst" at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, TX and "Passage: A Special Installation," at the Blanton Museum, University of Texas, Austin. Recent group shows include "Material Transformations" at the Montgomery Museum of Art, Montgomery, AL; "Re: Collection," at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; "Making Mends," at the Bellevue Museum of Arts, Bellevue, WA; and "Prospect .1," an international Biennial in New Orleans, LA. "Emergency Response Studio," a FEMA trailer transformed into an off-the-grid mobile artist's studio, was the subject of a solo exhibition at Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, TX; the exhibition also travelled to Ballroom Marfa, in Marfa, TX; Wesleyan University's Zilkha Gallery, Middletown, CT; and the trailer was featured in the New Museum's "Festival of Ideas for the New City", in New York, NY.

Villinski's work is widely collected, including major public works created by commission. "SkyCycles," three full-scale "flying bicycles" was installed at "Ocean Breeze," a new Parks and Recreation Track and Field facility, through the New York City Percent for Art Program. The City of New Haven Percent for Art Program commissioned "Dreamdesk," a flying school desk with 18' wingspan which was installed at the entrance to the East Rock Magnet School in 2014. Permanent collections include the National Soaring Museum, Elmira, NY; the Museum of Arts and Design, NY; the New Orleans Museum of Art, LA; the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA; Miami International Airport; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL; and the University of Michigan Mott Children's and Von Voitlander Women's Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. Corporate collections include Fidelity Investments; Microsoft; Progressive Insurance; the Cleveland Clinic; ADP; McCann Erickson International; New York Life; Ritz-Carlton and many others. He has been a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Serenbe Institute, GA; Socrates Sculpture Park, NY; the Millay Colony, NY; the Ucross Foundation, WY; the Djerassi Foundation, CA; and the Villa Montalvo Arts Center, CA. He is represented in New York by Morgan Lehman Gallery; in New Orleans by Jonathan Ferrara Gallery; in Jackson Hole, Wyoming by Tayloe Piggot Gallery; and in Palm Desert, California, by Austin Art Projects.

His work has frequently been reviewed in periodicals including ARTnews; Artforum; Art in America; Sculpture; Interior Design; Design Bureau; New York Magazine; ID; The New York Times; Wall Street Journal; Los Angeles Times;



Washington Post; Houston Chronicle; International Herald Tribune; Village Voice; Seattle Times; New Haven Register; Toronto Star; Times-Picayune and many others. A monograph on the artist's work will be published by Vivant Books in November, 2018.

A pilot of sailplanes, paragliders and single-engine airplanes, metaphors of flight and soaring often appear in his work. With a lifelong concern for environmental issues, his work frequently re-purposes discarded materials, effecting surprising and poetic transformations.

For further information, press or sales inquiries please contact the gallery. Join the conversation with JFG on Facebook (@JonathanFerraraGallery), Twitter (@JFerraraGallery), and Instagram (@JonathanFerraraGallery) via the hashtags #PaulVillinski, #JonathanFerraraGallery and #ArtsDistrictNewOrleans.

