

ROMAN ROAD

PRESS RELEASE SUNDAY ART FAIR BOOTH 26

Thursday 03 October – Sunday 06 October 2019

Ambika P3
35 Marylebone Road
London, NW1 5LS

Opening Hours:

Thursday 03 October: 6 – 10 PM
Friday 04 October: 12 – 8 PM
Saturday 05 October: 12 – 8 PM
Sunday 06 October: 12 – 6 PM

Roman Road is pleased to be exhibiting at Sunday Art Fair 2019 with a solo presentation of new works by Berlin-based artist Dennis Buck. Through a vibrant display of sun-bleached canvases, multilayered plastic paintings and a site-specific textile piece, Buck explores the idea of the emancipation and deromanticisation of the image of the artist, an ongoing investigation in his practice.

In all of Buck's recent pieces we see the same three motifs recur: his name (or initials), his mobile number and the artwork specifics (title, medium and/or date). These repetitive characters and symbols, which loom large on every work, have become an entrenched subject, one that focuses on the creator himself. With his practice, Buck explicitly indicates that the artist's name and identity is more significant than any individual piece, humorously commenting on the determiners of an artwork's value in today's art market.

As visitors enter the stand, they are confronted with Buck's *unpaid intern* (2019), his large-scale textile work made specially for the fair. Created through a process of long-time light exposure, his initials and the number 19 are pronounced and permanently emblazoned upon the fabric, markedly manifesting his presence by way of using the Sicilian sun to bleach away the parts not covered by his cutouts. This work was made and measured to cover the entire wall, connoting the idea of fabric walling, an element of interior design often employed to create a luxurious or unique finish to a room.

With his latest works, Buck brings together the domestic sphere and furnishings, with art. He considers what art can bring to other disciplines and its ability to enhance value in the home. He demonstrates this further by using one of his sun-bleached fabrics to reupholster a set of chairs. Becoming at once functional furniture and pieces of art, they are inimitable and branded with the artist's style and name, and have been elevated to bespoke and high-end objects, instantly increasing their value.

Buck continually tests the possibilities of different materials and surfaces, searching for new ways to enhance the vibrancy, physicality and multidimensionality of his works. Together with his varied sun-bleached works, the display features some of his new plastic paintings, instilled with bold and illuminating colours. These works are stretched from the front and the back, creating new visual depths and exposing the multiple elements layered within. Written in silicone, the work specifics and contact details of the artist protrude from each surface, evoking and reiterating the idea of an artist as a business, a concept that underpins Buck's entire practice.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dennis Buck (b. 1989, Ulm) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. From 2013–2016 he studied fine arts at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin). On completing his studies, Buck was nominated for the "Meisterschüler" program, an honour only awarded to selected students with outstanding artistic achievement. Recent solo exhibitions include: *always available*, Bonneville, Paris (2019); *+491522414NAME*, Roman Road, London (2019); and *All Exclusive*, Limbo, Berlin (2019). Buck's work has also been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including *Room Service*, +DEDE, Berlin (2018); *A Joshua Tree is Not a Tree*, JTHAR Ranch, California (2018); and *Provincetown*, MEWO Kunsthalle Memmingen, Bavaria (2018).

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Dennis Buck, *mapmapmap18*, 2018. Sun-bleached canvas, 225 x 140 cm, unique.
Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014 the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

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