

DENK

LYNN ALDRICH *O, MAGNIFY*

EXHIBITION DATES:

MAY 25 – JULY 6, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019, 6 - 8 PM



Los Angeles, CA - DENK gallery is pleased to present new works by **Lynn Aldrich** in *O, Magnify*, the artist's first solo exhibition with DENK and her first in Los Angeles since 2015. A conceptually motivated sculptor, Aldrich's works offer unexpected material propositions to reimagine the ordinary. Inspired by everyday household objects and "specimens" she's amassed on expeditions to local hardware stores, Aldrich's sourcing is not all that unlike a 19th-Century naturalist's penchant for in-field collecting, but with the natural milieu transposed for LA's suburban sprawl. Deliberated and planned rather than spontaneously intuited, Aldrich's transformations of lowly, even empirically worthless, materials through ingenious though minimal, low-tech means, evoke everything from natural phenomena and commercial consumerism to spiritual longing.

O, Magnify is inspired by the desire 'to see' and to know, a shared human desire that is pursued by science, philosophy, and sometimes art. Aldrich's own quasi-scientific methods produce objects and metaphors from the empirically observed world but with poetic or even playful projections. In addition to the magnification made possible by powerful telescopes and microscopes, the exhibition title is also a nod to biblical Psalm 34:3 where "magnify" is from the Greek word to exalt, to make large. Here, the restrictions of scientific discipline make room for mystery and the quest for transcendent meaning.

Aldrich's art teases out metaphors that begin with a slowed down look at natural phenomena like flora and fauna, rocks and water, and light and darkness in space and time. Her occasionally profound references are sometimes humorously offset by the material vernacular of middle-class, DIY culture promoted by So Cal purveyors of artificiality. In addition to Blinks, Aldrich shops in home improvement warehouses, hobby shops, and the fashion district for art supplies. *O, Magnify* includes works constructed from utility plastic hosing, corrugated roofing panels, ink pads and cartridges, drywall and tar felt, fake rock pet huts, and construction Sonotubes to create impactful and resonant encounters from unlikely means. This transmutation of the commonplace is the basis of Aldrich's practice - an ability to draw transcendent transformations from the mundanity of secular materials.

The exhibition will include nine new sculptural works, including a fourteen-foot Sonotube structure containing an optical environment inspired by the phenomenological theater of James Turrell (b. 1943). Aptly titled *Hermitage*, this sculpture is meant to be entered and experienced in solitude (turn off your phones), invoking the ascetic seclusion of the Christian monastic tradition to which it refers. Other works like *Crack!*, made from the accumulation of several layers of hand-cut, transparent plastic roofing are unexpectedly complex, revealing the manufactured plastic's inherent material qualities with little intervention or artifice on Aldrich's part. The cracked trench coursing through its surface is an undeniable *Vanitas*. Other works include *Start-up (after Extinction Event)*, a dark and distant village of miniature caves inspired by Pulitzer prize awarded novelist Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic saga, *The Road*.

Aldrich's works quietly reveal their latent preoccupation with the imminence of eventual and final collapse (if only that of the expanding universe), both promised by science and predicted by desert prophets, a dread percolating too beneath our observations of Earth's current ecological state. Her artworks, once the delight of their initial discovery and surprise subsides, however, remind us of the fundamental longing for life, light, and transformation: the shared redemptive domains of science and faith.

image credits left to right: *Start-up (after Extinction Event)*, 2019. Fake rock pet caves on fake rock pump cover, tea lights. 44 x 54 x 48 in; *Water Tangle*, 2018. Galvanized steel, acrylic paint. 42 x 64 x 54 in

ABOUT LYNN ALDRICH

Lynn Aldrich completed a BA at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and an MFA at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. She has exhibited internationally and was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2014. She is represented in several notable collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR, the Calder Foundation, New York, the Ahmanson Collection, Irvine, CA, and the Alain Servais Collection, Brussels, among many others.

ABOUT DENK GALLERY

DENK is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2017 in Downtown Los Angeles' thriving arts district. The Gallery presents a diverse program of local and international contemporary artists working across a variety of mediums, including sculpture, installation, painting, photography, works on paper, and interdisciplinary media. The gallery curates engaging exhibitions by artists who are creating relevant, substantive, experimental, or timely work. DENK Gallery fosters a generative curatorial space by providing an adaptable venue that allows artists to develop their concepts and have them realized.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT GALLERY DIRECTOR CARL BERG AT

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