

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

David McDonald

Montello

February 7 – March 14, 2020

Opening Reception: Friday, February 7th, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public, Artist in attendance



Image: David McDonald, *Stone Web #5*, 2019, hydrocal, plaster gauze, foil, pigment, enamel, polyurethane, 26 x 18 x 12 in. (66 x 45.7 x 30.5 cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present *Montello*, a solo exhibition of new sculpture by Los Angeles-based artist David McDonald.

While steeped in stillness and solitude at The Montello Foundation, a remote Nevadan artist residency, David McDonald spent two weeks in the summer of 2019 creating the five works featured in the exhibition. Completely isolated, off the grid, and without the looming presence of technology or any face-to-face human interaction whatsoever, the influence of the high desert is reflected in *Montello*. Present between polished slabs and poised honeycomb structures, moments of silence occupy negative spaces, allowing for luminous pause and childlike fixation.

Balanced yet slightly awkward, McDonald's sculptures seek connection to the natural world, striving to possess the qualities of objects in nature rather than mere depiction or representation of landscape. Indicative of his work, fundamental art concepts such as surface, color, scale, and texture come to the forefront with McDonald's organic forms, taking on curious gestures and achieving casual elegance.

Compelled to exercise ideas through humble materials in the lofty language of pure abstraction, David McDonald's *Montello* is an ode to forces greater than oneself. Without intending specific meaning or narrative of any kind, spindly wall works and globular forms alike communicate through their *thingness*; via their existence alone. Similarly to how there is no innate specific meaning to the bark of a tree or the curvature of a stone, McDonald describes his work as functioning the same way, as "a thing not a metaphor."

About David McDonald

David McDonald was born in Liverpool, England and lived in various countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, and Canada during his first 17 years. He then came to America to attend college (Calarts MFA, Boston University). He has had over twenty solo exhibitions nationwide, most recently at Five Car Garage in Los Angeles, CA, and has been reviewed by numerous publications including the Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, New Yorker, the Santa Fean, and Art Ltd. He is a recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2006 Pollock Krasner Fellowship. McDonald has taught at University of Southern California, California State Long Beach, New Roads High School, and Crossroads High School, amongst others. He is also an experienced meditator and has been certified as a Senior Dharma Teacher in the Kwan Um School of Zen.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as Art in America and ARTnews, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and The Denver Post declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.