

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Leon Benn

Nurse Logs

January 21 - February 26, 2022

Opening Reception: Friday, January 21st, 6 - 8pm

No appointment necessary / Free and open to the public



Leon Benn, *Sleepy Forest*, 2021, Oil and fabric dye on linen, 38 x 57 in. (96.5 x 14.8 cm)

life as its nutrients are returned and recycled back into the ecosystem. Through natural processes of generation and destruction balance is maintained in the forest, where the smallest organisms such as fungi, bacteria, and moss, play crucial roles. Envisioning himself as a “voyeuristic artist,” Benn leans away from reproaching humanity’s ill effect on natural settings, instead favoring an analytical approach in what he describes as, “framing an artificial humanity alongside the strange and mystical ecological stirrings of the forest world.”

Bridging languages of nature, human intervention, and art, Benn’s inclination towards observation is apparent in his detailed renderings of forest scenery. In *Nurse Logs*, Leon Benn’s thoughtfulness and skill shine as he carefully contrasts poles, juxtaposing delicate lichen blooms with a volcanic eruption, abandoned pizza and Eastern box turtles.

About Leon Benn

Leon Benn lives in Portland, Maine. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA) and the University of California, Los Angeles (MFA). He has had solo exhibitions at Grant Wahlquist Gallery; Portland, ME, David B. Smith Gallery; Denver, Roberts & Tilton; Los Angeles, Stems Gallery; Brussels, and Carter & Citizen; Los Angeles. His work has been featured in group exhibitions at Able Baker Contemporary; Portland, Space Gallery; Portland, Brand New Gallery; Milan, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, James Harris Gallery; Seattle, and Lisa Cooley; New York, amongst others.

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.