

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

## Robert Burnier & Justine Hill

January 19 – February 24, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, January 19, 2018, 6 - 8pm

Free and open to the public / Artists in Attendance



Image: Robert Burnier, *Maldekstramana Anĝelo (Duccio 1)*, 2017, acrylic on aluminum, 12 x 10 x 4 in. (30.48 x 25.4 x 10.16cm).

Featuring work from Chicago-based artist Robert Burnier, and New York-based artist Justine Hill in the main gallery, David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present a two-person exhibition of artists working across media, across the country.

Robert Burnier's folded and twisted aluminum wall sculptures draw attention to spatial relationships and corresponding visual language, with meaning inadvertently following form. Each of Burnier's works are titled in the manufactured utopian language Esperanto, which was conceived in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in what is now Poland, in order to create a universal linguistic bridge between peoples. Materiality, manipulation, and chance come together in Burnier's work, presenting both question and axiom.

The line between landscape and figure, painting and collage, foreground and background is crossed over and back again in Justine Hill's enigmatic works. Hill's irregularly shaped canvases burst with colors and textures, emphasizing gesture and intuitive mark making. Occupying a fluctuating space between loose representation and pure abstraction, Hill's mixed media paintings act individually as distinct characters.



Image: Justine Hill, *Misfit 12*, 2017, acrylic and pencil on canvas, 24 x 18in. (60.96 x 45.72cm).

Together Burnier and Hill bring new takes on color, form, texture, and dimension to the main gallery. Contrast and convergence underscore chance relationships between works, where shapes and shadow echo and mimic one another, moving forward and back through layers and spaces, never seeking or arriving at a conclusion.

### About Robert Burnier

Robert Burnier lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute, and a BS in Computer Science from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Burnier has had solo exhibitions Andrew Rafacz Gallery (Chicago), Elastic Arts (Chicago), and Starcom (Chicago), among others, and is a founding member of the celebrated artist run gallery space Tiger Strikes Asteroid (Chicago). His work has been exhibited in solo and curated presentations at art fairs in Chicago, Miami, New York, Mexico City, and Copenhagen, and is included in numerous public and private collections.

### About Justine Hill

Justine Hill lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and her BA from the College of the Holy Cross. She has had solo exhibitions at Denny Gallery (New York), Kathryn Markel Fine Arts (New York), Blueshift Project (Miami), and Galerie Protege (New York), and has been in critically reviewed group shows such as *Metamodern* at Denny Gallery and *Immediate Female* at Judith Charles Gallery (New York). Her work has been reviewed or featured in *Hyperallergic*, *New York Magazine*, *The Observer*, *The Huffington Post*, *Artsy*, *Artspace*, *Arte Fuse*, *Two Coats of Paint*, and *On Verge*.

### 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.

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