

Press Release

Hugh Hayden

55 Main Street
East Hampton, NY
November 5 – 15, 2020

For the latest exhibition in East Hampton, Lisson Gallery is pleased to present a selection of new works by New York based artist Hugh Hayden. In this exhibition, Hayden returns to sculpting felled wood, and now metal, to continue his exploration of the reverberations of the American Dream.

In a wall mounted picket fence and a house shaped like a Happy Meal, Hayden sculpts and paints branches into animated flames. These dystopian wooden works combine with a steel football face masks, which sprouts thorns, and an ominous toy police car draped in a sheet to evoke an uninhabitable vision of America.

In his practice, Hayden begins each work with objects that inherently carry significant associations with societal categorization, whether race, religion, ethnicity, education or sexuality. Materials range from wood, feathers, hair, kitchen utensils or found objects. Often these components take traditional, but twisted forms — from a thorned family dinner table, to a protruding picket fence which functions as barricade, or helmet filled with spikes too sharp to ever sit comfortably atop a wearer's head. This metaphorical disruption of traditional American social context or notions of an American dream is a sharp commentary on the state of the nation and its politics.

This exhibition marks the artist's first with Lisson Gallery since a solo exhibition in London was shut down due to coronavirus earlier this year. *American Food* was Hayden's U.K. debut, and directly engaged with his longstanding culinary practice. It was a poignant commentary for these extraordinary times on the power of food within culture, and particularly on the global origins of what is traditionally thought of us as nationalist cuisine.

Since its inauguration this summer, Lisson Gallery's 1,000 square foot East Hampton space has presented exhibitions focused on both seminal, historic artworks and premiered new bodies of work. Previous artists on view include Stanley Whitney, Carmen Herrera, Anish Kapoor, Van Hanos, Joanna Poussette-Dart, Sean Scully, Shirazeh Houshiary, Liu Xiaodong, Tony Oursler and Channa Horwitz. This focused format, in an intimate setting, recalls the origins of Lisson Gallery, which was established in 1967 in a storefront window on London's Bell Street. The Long Island location of the new space joins Lisson's two other galleries in the New York area, including the recent expansion to a second location on West 24th Street in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

The gallery will be open to the public Wednesday to Sunday. The health and safety of visitors remains a top priority, and strict measures will be implemented in the space to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A mask will be required for entry, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Please visit our website for further details about the guidelines and to schedule an appointment.

About Hugh Hayden

Hugh Hayden's practice considers the anthropomorphization of the natural world as a visceral lens for exploring the human condition. Hayden transforms familiar objects through a process of selection, carving and juxtaposition to challenge our perceptions of ourselves, others and the environment. Raised in Texas and trained as an architect, his work arises from a deep connection to nature and its organic materials. Hayden utilizes wood as his primary medium, frequently loaded with multi-layered histories in their origin, including objects as varied as discarded trunks, rare indigenous timbers, Christmas trees or souvenir African sculptures. From these he saws, sculpts and sands the wood, often combining disparate species, creating new composite forms that also reflect their complex cultural backgrounds. Crafting metaphors for human existence and past experience, Hayden's work questions the stasis of social dynamics and asks the viewer to examine their place within an ever-shifting ecosystem.

Hugh Hayden was born in Dallas, Texas in 1983 and lives and works in New York City. He holds an MFA from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University. His work was the subject of solo exhibitions at Art@Bainbridge at Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey (2020) and White Columns, New York (2018). His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery, London (2020); The Shed, New York (2019); JTT, New York (2018); Clearing, New York (2018); Tanya Bonakdar Gallery (2018); PPOW Gallery, New York (2017); Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York (2017); Postmasters Gallery, New York (2016); MoMA PS1, Rockaway Beach, New York (2014); Socrates Sculpture Park, New York (2014); and Abrons Art Center, New York (2013), among others. He is the recipient of residences at Glenfiddich in Dufftown, Scotland (2014); Abrons Art Center and Socrates Sculpture Park (both 2012), and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (2011).

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York, one in Shanghai, as well as temporary spaces opened in 2020 in East Hampton and London's Mayfair district. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

For press enquiries, please contact

Victoria Mitchell
Senior Media & Communications Manager
Tel: +44 (0)7557 390 331
Email: victoria@lissongallery.com

i: [@lisson_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/lisson_gallery)
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504 West 24th Street, New York 10011 | 508 West 24th Street, New York 10011 | +1 212 505 6431