

# BEACON GALLERY

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Beacon Gallery | 524B Harrison Ave | Boston MA 02118

## **Sam Belisle, Ari Hauben & Sofia Plater - *Lost & Found***

Sept 6 - 29, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> (First Friday), 6 - 8 pm

Participant of "SoWA Open Studios Weekend" Sept 14-15



Beacon Gallery is pleased to present for September 2019 a group show entitled *Lost & Found*, featuring artists **Sam Belisle**, **Sofia Plater**, and **Ari Hauben**.

*Lost & Found* examines Belisle, Plater & Hauben's most recent work and their explorations of urban identity through a variety of media, including, painting, sculpture, and installation. Each of the artists embrace a Pop Art and Graphic Art approach, make stylistic use of unexpected materials, and employ texture as a prominent element in their artwork. Additionally, *Lost & Found* will feature an immersive, full-scale installation by Plater in the gallery's back space.

Beacon Gallery owner Christine O'Donnell states of these artist's work, "I am so delighted to bring the diverse work of these three artists together. Their diverse talents offer something for everyone to enjoy in this show that starts our exciting 2019-2020 season."

*Lost & Found* runs from September 6<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> at Beacon Gallery, with an opening reception on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

More about the artists:

### **Sam Belisle**

Sam Belisle is a Boston-based painter, sculptor, and installation artist. He received his BFA in Studio Art from Denison University (Granville, OH) in 2013 and his MFA from the School of The Museum of Fine Arts at Tuft's University (Boston, MA) in 2018.

*My work, whether it be painting, sculpture, or installation, highlights moments of work and leisure within a working-class context. I see this as a necessary revisiting of the American tradition of Social Realism. Following the Great Depression, artists shifted their focus towards the working-class experience. Their realistic portrayal of American life acted as a political weapon protesting the deficiencies of American capitalism while highlighting the values and dignity of an entire class of people. I align myself with this part of American history because I recognize that those same social and economic injustices are operating covertly today. As the working class continues to struggle ten years after the housing market crash of 2008, you can see clear examples of class exploitation, disproportionate resource allocation, and the division of a collective working-class consciousness.*

*Oil painting in general and portraiture are specifically tied historically to wealth and high-culture. I work within this medium in an attempt to subvert this expectation. I further undermine these norms by working on found or repurposed materials. My intention in these paintings and sculpture is to touch on experiences that are familiar to working-class people in order to generate a collective consciousness that transcends divisions based on race, religion, ethnicity or any other means.*

*It is my hope that these paintings can acknowledge problematic symptoms of capitalism, refocus the interests of the collective working class and bridge the gap of communication, and lastly, and perhaps most importantly, celebrate community cohesion and other working-class values. Presenting a positive counter narrative is the first step in disproving fears fashioned by white supremacy.*

### **Sofia Plater**

Sofia Plater is a Boston-based mixed media and sculpture artist. She received her BFA from Boston College in 2011 and her MFA from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in 2018.

Sofia works with construction materials to create unexpected explorations of aesthetic possibilities. Her work features designs that resemble naturally growing forms composed mostly of human-made and mass-produced materials that were once destined to inhabit a landfill. Creating sculptures that are simultaneously organic and synthetic, her work evokes the conflict between natural and man-made architecture. Her primary inspiration comes from witnessing the architecture of raw nature and the free-form textures and structures that exist and grow in the environment.

### **Ari Hauben**

Ari Hauben is a Boston-based artist and a member of Boston's Fort Point Art Community. His work consists of multimedia work which covers a broad spectrum of topics, styles, and materials and has been exhibited throughout Boston, including at the Grand Opening of the Art of Americas Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Ari's artwork predominantly involves newspaper, epoxy, spray paint, and layering techniques that are integrated into a variety of visual platforms. Oftentimes he constructs the images within his work using newspaper print from relevant articles for the dual purpose of creating meaning for the work, as well as adding an element of perspective. Although this style has been his latest muse, he is continually searching for ways to push boundaries and expand his art into new territories.

The idea of form meeting function was born out of Ari's belief that art can be both meaningful and aesthetically pleasing, something he embraced while getting his BFA in industrial design from RIT. He continued to explore and refine his style and skill set while getting his MFA from BU. As a result of his experiences in both Industrial design and fine arts, Ari believes in not limiting himself to any one process or material. Instead, he simply reaches for a solution that feels right for each individual piece of work. Thus, Ari leaves no stone un-turned in creating art that represents not only his experiences, but those society at large as well.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Rachel Legault at 857.277.1700 or email at [marketing@beacongallery.com](mailto:marketing@beacongallery.com).