

**STUART & CO.**  
GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AUBREY INGMAR MANSON**  
**Lush Voyeur**

December 12, 2015 - January 16, 2016  
Opening Reception:  
December 12, 2015, 7-9pm

(Chicago - November 27, 2015)

Stuart & Co. Gallery is proud to present *Lush Voyeur*, an exhibition of new works by Aubrey Ingmar Manson. Manson brings together ghostly images and variant textures to reveal poetics through an exploration of intimacy, private perception and tactile materiality. As the title suggests, the work is sensual, delicate, and erotic in its visualization while touching on themes of growth, nurturing, and vulnerability. The soft, elastic materials utilized, when combined with slick, wet surface textures, ooze an experience of bodily membranes and interior functions.

Manson's works brush against many historical tropes with connections to surrealism, feminism, and phenomenology. Highly experiential, Manson's theoretical form has no hard edges and is not easily explained, making her work difficult to define outside of the visual experience of beholding it yet allowing for the viewer to fully immerse themselves in the environment of the space and physicality of the materials.

The large-scale video projection *Don't Tell, This is Our Place* depicts intricately constructed organic masses navigating a weightless landscape, penetrating layers of earth, mist, and liquid akin to cells in the bloodstream. Unidentified sources discuss communal feelings of paranoia as we are led through an uncanny artificiality that coalesces into a dreamy naturalism. The effect is that of a self-designed shelter, an environment where one's deepest fantasies may become realities and an eerie comfort exists amidst eminent danger.

In works such as *Chewed & Spit*, Manson utilizes handmade paper pulp to create monumental-sized pieces emboldened with a frozen fragility. The palette chosen, coupled with the overt reference to mucous, brings to mind other bodily secretions such as semen, vomit, and bile. The dichotomy between hard and soft, organic and artificial, permanence and temporality creates a Freudian poetic irony in an entombment of color.

Similarly, the paper pulp-constructed piece *Next Year's Flower Show* is preoccupied with the sensation of touching or guarding against touch. Velvet ropes strategically placed in front of the work creates a physical barrier that forces the viewer to take on the role of a voyeur while simultaneously generating a feeling of anticipation for some groundbreaking event.

Manson's grouping of ceramic, phallic-like structures, entitled *Stanchions*, echoes this effect. Appearing as forceful guardians or protectors, the fragile sculptures allude to psychosexual control and submission through repetition, scale variations, and a conflict between solidified mass and delicate materials. Each has its own idiosyncratic blemishes and tonality shifts resulting in varying levels of blush and flaccidity despite forceful solidity. Furthermore, the title references posts used for crowd control and animal fences.

Manson describes the effect of her work, stating, "I project personal paranoia as to how I believe the world operates into observable metaphorical stages. My most immense fears come forth, expressing themselves singularly or in sensual environments containing elements of both eerie fascination and comfort. Societal aspects are abstracted to produce bodily interactions and power relationships within abject installations and meandering philosophies."

A Chicago native, Aubrey Manson completed her BFA in Painting at Northern Illinois University in 2010 and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to pursue her MFA in Painting and Drawing. Manson's accolades include the SAIC MFA Dean's Scholarship, SAIC Incentive Scholarship, and the Ox-Bow Fellowship and Residency. She currently lives and works in Chicago.

Maintaining a contemporary vision, Stuart & Co. Gallery strives to represent emerging and mid-career artists at the forefront of expression. Since its inception in 2012, Stuart & Co. Gallery has been home to innovative, pioneering exhibitions across a multitude of media and genres. The gallery embraces multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-genre art forms in addition to traditional practices.

Please join Stuart & Co. Gallery for the opening reception of *Lush Voyeur* on Saturday, December 12th, 2015 from 7 - 9pm.

For more information, please contact Britney Lipton at (312) 487-1850 or via email at [britney.lipton@stuartandco.com](mailto:britney.lipton@stuartandco.com).