

John Fekner's Solo Exhibition

A CHANGE

July 24 - August 30, 2020

About the exhibition

The economic imbalance, the energy crisis, health insurance, pollution, and global warming increase exponentially every day, all compounded by the coronavirus pandemic. Many of our issues boil below the surface, making it convenient to turn a blind eye. But complacency has rarely been the stock n' trade of artists. The rule is generally that sugar-coated art is a dead art.

This mini-retrospective encapsulates and showcases John Fekner's paintings, mixed media sculpture, and ephemera. Although some of the work is decades old, their relevance resonates today, maybe with even greater urgency. Through a sampling of art objects, photographs, books, and a glimpse into Fekner's personal archive spanning a fifty-year timeline, grassroots protestors can find a historical context for their most pressing concerns today.

In this exhibition, we hope to continue a dialogue with the public willing to reflect, reexamine, relearn, and redefine, both past and present issues, for a better future for everyone in our communities.

"My motivation for this exhibition was based on Sam Cooke's 1964 composition and recording "A Change is Gonna Come", a plaintive emotional response to a racial injustice incident that Cooke experienced in 1963.

The stencil "A Change" painted on a crumbling facade is a reminder that when things are broken, rebuilding must begin from the ground up - a new foundation with fundamental rights for everyone. In 1968 in an NYC playground, my outdoor work focused on minimalizing an art object so that it becomes a shared visual experience for the local community and general public. Working in abandoned properties, closed storefront windows, non-profit alternative spaces, etc., my affinity for public spaces drew me to the Garage Art Center, a few blocks away in my home town.

The social injustice and environmental issues we face today have roots in the civil rights and protests movements of the 60s'. As an undergraduate college student in New York (1968-1972), I participated in student demonstrations and peaceful moratoriums against the war in Vietnam. The SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) spread through universities and college campuses throughout the United States and the entire world.

Grassroots organizations always do the footwork, shining the light of truth through the thick hedge of falsehoods and lies in our mainstream political dialogue. Most importantly, the solutions they seek are not expedient but are foundational in improving conditions for generations to come. In every instance, they challenge the fabricated narratives of the powers that be."

- John Fekner, 2020

A Conversation with the Artist | Video available online

Please check our website for more details at www.garageartcenter.org.

Or subscribe our YouTube channel **The Garage Art Center**.

Image List

price upon request



Memento No. 52
8" W x 8" H
Paper pulp casting from
PS1 metal grating



Memento No. 1
62 1/4" W x 24" H
Paper pulp casting from
PS1 classroom tin ceiling



Memento No. 95
13" W x 46 1/2" H
Outdoor paper pulp casting of
a Chevrolet Camaro rear deck



Man-Made Skeleton | 8 1/2" diameter x 4" D
Letraset and paint on 4 barrel carburetor on burnt 45 RPM vinyl records

Untitled (Industrial Fossil series) | 13" W x 9" H x 5" D
Found objects on burnt 45 RPM vinyl records

Book of Records 1988 A.D. | 14" W x 7" H x 1 1/2" D
Leaf mounted on burnt 45 RPM vinyl records

Progress | 7" W x 8 1/2" H x 1/2" D
Letraset, paint and resin on melted found object

Progress (Industrial Fossil series) | 10 1/4" W x 4 3/4" H x 2 1/2" D
Letraset and tar on roller skate and metal

Progress (Industrial Fossil series) | 7 1/4" diameter x 4 1/4" D
Letraset, paint on burnt 45 RPM records



Industrial Fossil
108" W x 29" H | Stencil template



Bayside Deer

4 3/4" Diameter x 1" D
Mixed media and resin
on CDs



Barcode Deer

4 3/4" Diameter x 1" D
Spray paint, mixed media
and resin on CDs



The Last Tree

4 3/4" Diameter x 1" D
Spray paint, dirt, found photo
& resin on CDs



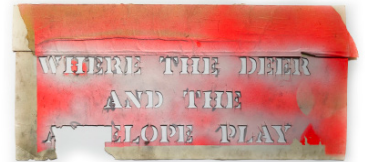
Home Sweet Home

27 3/4" W x 6 1/4" H
Stencil template



America America

9" W x 13" H
Stencil template



Where The Deer and the Antelope Play

9 1/2" W x 9 1/4" H
Stencil Template



America

20 1/4" W x 17" H
Willetts Point, Flushing, NY
Color print



Decay

34 3/4" W x 25 1/4" H
Schwartz Chemical Factory,
Long Island City, NY
Color print



Stolen Land (Conquest of Paradise)

56" W x 38 3/4" H (Diptych)
Enamel & spray paint on
unstretched found canvas