

**Wasserman Projects to Open “A Mark Extended”  
A Four Person Exhibition Exploring Process and Connection**

*Including Chris Hyndman (Chicago, IL), Hannah Knox (London, UK),  
Steven and William Ladd (New York, NY), and Matt Wedel (Albany, OH)*

**On View February 26 – April 17, 2021  
Virtual Reception: February 27, from 4:00 - 5:00 PM EST**

**Detroit—February 10, 2021**—Wasserman Projects is pleased to announce its new winter exhibition “A Mark Extended” opening on February 26th, 2021. The exhibition will feature works by Chicago-based artist Chris Hyndman, London-based artist Hannah Knox, New York-based collaborative Steven and William Ladd, and Ohio-based artist Matt Wedel. While working in a wide range of media, the works presented are linked by the artists’ intensive processes and the bonds formed by human experience – from Hyndman’s intricately layered paintings, to Knox’s extensive exploration of textile patterns, to the Ladds’ obsessively textured mixed media works, to Wedel’s defyingly large-scale ceramic sculptures. The artists are connected not only in their process-based approaches, but by their deeply embedded narratives. Whether figurative or an abstracted suggestion of the figure, the performative nature of the work is animated through expressive gesture and an unrestrained self-awareness, converging into a visual record of vast psychological landscapes that inform how we approach what lies ahead.

“Each of these artists exhibit an inspiring dedication and work ethic that speak to our pursuit of understanding and our innate ability to persevere. At the same time, the visual impact of their labor offers a celebratory approach through playful investigation of material – working in concert with vibrant palettes and enticing textures that serve as a beacon of joy, even in the darkest times.” said Alison Wong, Director and Curator of Wasserman Projects. “During this prolonged period of isolation, our need for human connection is greater than ever. My hope for this exhibition is that it will remind us we are all connected and even the simplest of gestures can extend far beyond its initial mark.”

“A Mark Extended” will launch online Friday, February 26th. A virtual reception with the artists will follow on Saturday, February 27th, at 4pm EST with a special performance by violinist, Eliot Heaton – presented in collaboration with the Michigan Opera Theatre. The event is free and open to the public, however, registration is required. Wasserman Projects will be open by appointment for private in-person viewing, in adherence to strict COVID guidelines. Event registration, online viewing, and information on booking for visits can be found on Wasserman Projects’ website. In addition to the exhibition, each artist will have limited edition wares available through Wasserman Works, a new retail platform highlighting accessible art and design objects. Both presentations will be on view through April 17, 2021.

The winter line-up is also in keeping with Wasserman Projects’ vision to bring together in dialogue in regional, national, and international artists. A further detailing of each artist’s exhibition follows below.

**Chris Hyndman**

Chris Hyndman is a painter born in London, Ontario. Hyndman attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, received his MFA from Ohio University, and BA from University of Guelph. His work has been featured in New American Paintings, Manifest’s International Painting Annual, and solo exhibitions at Bluffton University, the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan, and Susanne Hilberry Gallery. His paintings were recently included in the 2020 Rockford Midwestern Biennial at the Rockford Art Museum and a three-person exhibition with Jelena Berenc and Carlos Melian at the Evanston Art

Center. Chris is a faculty member in the School of Art & Design at Eastern Michigan University. He currently lives and works in Chicago, IL.

Hyndman's presentation at Wasserman Projects spans 7 years of his practice. Beginning with an earlier series titled "Curtains" that depict manually pixelated color fields, led to the more recent "Audition" series, which features plaid-patterned forms performing in front of the curtains. Structured, composed, and bound by the four sides of the canvas, Hyndman's paintings are embedded in the tradition and fundamental conditions of painting while simultaneously employing digital imaging software and tools that speak to today's most pervasive framing of images – through rectangular screens. The shallow stage-like environments in his work bring to surface the way in which we often stage ourselves for presentation, whether the audience is one, none, or many.

### **Hannah Knox**

Hannah Knox was born in London, England, where she lives and works. She completed her MA in painting at the Royal College of Art in 2007 and has lectured in painting at a number of colleges and universities, including Chelsea School of Art, Oxford Brookes University and University of the Creative Arts Canterbury. Recent exhibitions include "*Greetings From Miami*" at Hashimoto Contemporary, New York 2020, *Common Property*, at the Jerwood Space, London, UK, 2016. Solo exhibitions include *Tempur*, CSM Project Space, London, UK, 2015; '*BUFF*', Ceri Hand Gallery, London, UK, 2013; '*Stoffbilder*', Take Courage, London, 2012. Group exhibitions include: *Autocatalyticfuturegames*, No Format, London UK, 2015; *Reproduction Failure*, Slate Projects, London, UK, 2014; Art Britannia, Madonna Building, Miami, USA 2013.

Knox's paintings in "A Mark Extended" developed during the lockdown in March 2020. This series of un-bodied shirt paintings sit between abstraction and figuration, where line denotes form, and seemingly flat surfaces shift into the sculptural. Layered deeper than the patterning of the material, Knox's connection to clothing stems from her late mother, who was a fashion designer. While the body may be absent, the figure is ever present. History, memory, and personality are all embodied by the garments we wear for ourselves or for others. For Knox, this series becomes a space to project – a self-portrait or an old friend, a still-life or a relic, a wish-list item in an online basket or a hand me down.

### **Steven and William Ladd**

New York-based artists and brothers Steven and William Ladd have collaborated on artworks ranging from the miniscule to the massive for over two decades. Their work has been exhibited in museums globally and featured in major publications including The New York Times. Reflecting on the lack of exposure to the arts during their shared upbringing, in 2006 they founded Scrollathon as a way to engage over 10,000 people from all ages, backgrounds and abilities in collaborating on world-class artworks. Steven and William's works can be found in collections including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Fidelity International, Agnes Gund and Musée des Arts Décoratifs. They've received commissions from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Detroit Pistons, Washington Square Partners and the United States Department of State. Through partners Scrollathon has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Knight Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The Ladd Brothers' exhibition at Wasserman Projects includes work from over ten years. Early works of haute-couture handbags and jewelry inspired their signature boxes that became towers, and later evolved into large installations. Conveying both vulnerability and strength, millions of delicate small parts depend on one another. Much like the weaving and stitching of storytelling, the Ladd's intricately crafted textiles and beadwork incorporate tales from their childhood and journey through life.

The Ladd's work at Wasserman Projects is presented in collaboration with Cristina Grajales Gallery, NY.

## **Matt Wedel**

Matt Wedel was born and raised in Palisade, Colorado. He began working with clay at a young age, under the guidance of his father, a functional potter. At age 14, Wedel studied with Manta Ortiz and Michael Wisner, apprentice to Juan Quesada. Shortly after, he attended the last workshop by Peter Voukos before receiving his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he studied under Xavier Toubes, among others. He then received an MFA in ceramics from California State University, Long Beach where he studied with Tony Marsh and Kristen Morgin. Wedel taught at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design, University of Colorado, Boulder, and Ohio University. His work has been exhibited widely, most recently, his solo exhibition at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Museum of Art that traveled to Wichita Falls Museum of Art in Texas. Wedel's work is held in collections and museums internationally including the Clay Museum of Ceramic Art, Middelfart, Denmark, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Canada, and the Long Beach Museum of Art in California. In early 2012, Wedel set up a full-time studio practice in Southeast Ohio where he lives with his family.

Wedel's presentation at Wasserman Projects explores his process and act of making represented in works dating from 2016 to present. Rooted in his interest in psychology and how creativity functions internally and throughout culture, Wedel approaches his practice as a gateway into the mind. The debris of flowers, faces, statuary, and gesture that emerge become the vestiges or record of the attempts to actively understand and navigate the world. His physical interaction with material simultaneously expresses strength and vulnerability in both his commandingly large-scale and the more delicate, intimately scaled works. These solitary and introspective moments echo the human condition, in our endless curiosity and unbound momentum forward.

Matt Wedel's work at Wasserman Projects is presented in collaboration with L.A. Louver, Venice, CA.

## **ABOUT WASSERMAN PROJECTS**

Wasserman Projects was conceived by Michigan-native Gary Wasserman and opened its doors in a former firehouse in Detroit's historic Eastern Market, one of the oldest and largest year-round markets in the U.S., in fall 2015. Wasserman Projects is guided by a spirit of collaboration, recognizing that artist projects are best realized and most meaningful when they engage a broad range of cultural organizers, community leaders, and the dynamic and diverse populations of Detroit. The organization works with artists from across disciplines and around the world, presenting exhibitions and performances that will spark a discourse on art, but also cultural, social, or political issues, which are particularly active and timely in Detroit. Wasserman Projects is nimble in its approach, operating in part as a for-profit gallery as well as a presentation space, and helps artists bring to fruition new projects that may not otherwise be possible.

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