

For Immediate Release:

"it's a poor craftsman who blames his tools"

Megan Cotts
Randy Moore
Ezra Tessler

March 8 - April 27, 2014
Reception: Saturday March 8, 6pm-8pm



Junior Projects is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition "it's a poor craftsman who blames his tools," a group show featuring new works by Megan Cotts, Randy Moore, and Ezra Tessler. The exhibition examines the nature of a machine-crafted aesthetic and the allure of mechanized perfection in art making. The show presents willfully handmade works that slyly interrogate flawlessness, both in form and concept. Often biographical, these works espouse idiosyncrasy. Here, intimacy supersedes mass production in the "man versus the machine" dialectic.

In her Honeycomb works, Megan Cotts translates designs patented by her great-great grandfather and his partner, who manufactured luxury decorative paper products in Halle, Germany in the early 1900s. The designs were later used in many developments in industries such as aviation, shipbuilding, and aerospace. Cotts revives the designs—once intended for machine production—by hand stitching her inheritance into found materials. Boldly painted lines appear to weave through, and also hover over the carefully folded honeycomb striations. In her appropriation, Cotts considers issues of finitude, evolution, and personal history.

Randy Moore's abstract chewing gum compositions explore the psychosexual landscape as tangible object. Rooted in Freud's five stages of development, Moore's work physicalizes theories promoted by the father of psychoanalysis. For Moore, masticated chewing gum, a substance he has used extensively since the late 1980s, reifies the first two stages of child development—oral and anal. The artist relies on many mouths—in essence, a factory of masticators—to generate the numerous wads of chewing gum that compose a work. These imperfect teeth-tools create the painting medium for his fetishized minimalist-leaning canvases.

In his recent work, Ezra Tessler dissects found architectural awnings and other factory-made home improvement products before laboriously burying them under mounds of shredded paper pulp and painted washes of color. With these palimpsestic works, Tessler entombs the original form and its intended function. This softening of the stark angularity of factory-produced products invites the viewer to consider their intended purpose. Tessler investigates the simultaneously public and private space created by awnings, and equally art.

For further information please contact Lance Goldsmith at 212.228.8045 or info@juniorprojects.com.

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday from 11am-6pm or by appointment.