



# NAGY / LIBBY / LE VA

Magenta Plains is very proud to announce *Nagy / Libby / Le Va*, an exhibition comprised of historical works by Peter Nagy and Barry Le Va and introducing new work by sculptor Anne Libby. In keeping with Magenta Plains' ongoing interest in supporting and fostering intergenerational conversations, the exhibition presents three generations of New York artists and their work ranging from the early 1980s through the present.

Peter Nagy, Anne Libby and Barry Le Va share an affinity for psychic and physical explorations of architectonic space with reduced means and material. Adhering to a restricted palette and often forgoing color altogether, Nagy, Libby and Le Va use industrial materials as both form and content. Working within self-imposed constraints, these artists develop conceptual structures to engage the dialectic of order and chaos and the intersection of logical, technical systems versus the transient subjectivity of the viewer. Formal and conceptual links can be seen across each of their practices, a reminder that ideas are cyclical. This exhibition recognizes the lasting impression artistic influence can have on subsequent generations who, in turn, reinterpret these ideas in new and unexpected ways.

One of the leading figures of Post-Minimalism and Process Art, Barry Le Va's influence on the trajectory of contemporary art cannot be underestimated. Part installation and part residual performance, Le Va's "non-specific situations" push the limits of sculpture to the point of dematerialization. Utilizing commonplace and impermanent materials such as felt, steel, wood, dust, chalk, concrete and shattered glass, Le Va's floor-based "scatter" compositions are pre-meditated through written directives and diagrams—traces of his process—which manifest as plan views, small-scale notations, collages, or mappings of bunkers used in military actions. For this exhibition, Magenta Plains will be presenting a selection of works on paper spanning 30 years which simultaneously portray an artist thinking through spatial problems as much as they posit and revise the layered, sculptural installations into dramatic, graphic form.

In the late 1970s when Peter Nagy moved to New York City to attend art school, Le Va was exhibiting regularly at Sonnabend Gallery and had held solo shows at the New Museum and the Whitney Museum. These exhibitions left a strong and powerful impression on the young artist. Nagy's stark paintings and xeroxes of culture and architecture explored the invasiveness of corporate control, as seen both in cultural institutions and inside of our bodies. Many of his black and white xeroxes and paintings relate to floor plans of institutional spaces such as museums and corporations, foregrounding the labels and symbols of the specific locations to draw attention to the slippage between art and the context of its production and display. Magenta Plains will be displaying large-scale aluminum paintings from the late 1980s as well as a new sculptural installation in the window gallery at 95 Orchard Street.

In Anne Libby's work, industrially manufactured products and materials such as picnic tables, venetian blinds and Japanese seaweed are appropriated and transformed into highly graphic, biomorphic forms that are at once minimal and muted, yet aggressively ornamental. Sculptures in wood, Formica, and glass are surgically calculated, produced meticulously from technical drawings which extrapolate found forms and textures.

**MAGENTA  
PLAINS**

*April 30 – June 23, 2017*

*Opening Reception: April 30, 6–8pm*

94 Allen Street New York, NY 10002  
magentaplains.com  
917-388-2464



- ▷ **BARRY LE VA** (b.1941, Long Beach, CA) held his first solo exhibition at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis in 1969. Later that year, his work was included in landmark exhibitions such as *Anti-Illusion: Procedures/Materials* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1969, and shortly after, *Information* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1970. Le Va has subsequently participated in *documenta 5* (1972), 6 (1977), and 7 (1982) in Kassel, Germany; and the Whitney Museum of American Art's Annual and Biennial exhibitions of 1971, 1977, and 1995. Le Va has been the subject of major survey exhibitions at the New Museum, New York, 1979; the Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, 1988 (travelling); Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, 2005 (curated by Ingrid Schaffner); and the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Portugal, 2006. Recently, Le Va's works were included in *Greater New York* at MoMA PS1, New York, 2015-2016; *Piece Work*, organized by Robert Storr, at Yale University School of Art, New Haven, 2015; and *Bold Abstractions: Selections from the DMA Collection 1966-1976*, curated by Gavin Delahunty, at the Dallas Museum of Art, 2015. His work can be found in many important public and private collections worldwide. Le Va currently lives and works in New York City.
- ▷ **PETER NAGY** (b.1959, Bridgeport, CT) is a New Delhi based artist and gallerist who received a B.F.A. from Parsons School of Design in 1981. His classmates included Steven Parrino, Joel Otterson, Meyer Vaisman, and Liz Koury. In 1982, Nagy founded Gallery Nature Morte in the East Village with fellow artist Alan Belcher. Nature Morte was among one of the most important artist-run galleries of the 1980s, focused on a new type of work that blended Conceptualism and Pop Art exploring the relationship between art and commodity and exhibiting some of their generation's most promising young artists including Gretchen Bender, David Robbins, as well as Otterson and Parrino. International With Monument (Koury and Vaisman's gallery) held multiple solo exhibitions with Nagy as well as with Peter Halley, Jeff Koons and Richard Prince. Nagy went on to exhibit his work extensively, to critical and commercial acclaim, throughout the 80s and 90s. In the early 1990s, Nagy relocated to New Delhi, India where he reopened Nature Morte in 1997. It remains to this day one of the most important and influential galleries exhibiting contemporary Indian art.
- ▷ **ANNE LIBBY** (b.1987, Los Angeles, CA) received her B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2009 and completed her M.F.A. from Bard College in 2017. This fall, Libby will present new works in her forthcoming solo exhibition at Zak's Project Space in New York. Recent solo exhibitions were held at Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Violet's Cafe, Brooklyn, NY; and Metropolitan Structures, Baltimore, MD. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at University of Arkansas at Little Rock; 247365, New York, NY; and in Brooklyn at Signal, U.S. Blues, and 315 Gallery. Anne Libby currently lives and works in New York.

## MAGENTA PLAINS

94 Allen Street New York, NY 10002  
magentaplains.com  
917-388-2464