

JASON WILLAFORD

After A Long Pause...

GALLERI URBANE



After A Long Pause...

April 6 - May 4, 2019

In his first solo exhibition with the gallery since 2016, Jason Willaford returns to present his latest body of vinyl-based constructions. *After A Long Pause...* includes work completed in 2019 that have been approached from a more intuitively-driven process than Willaford's previous investigations with the medium. Part-painting and part-sculpture, the pieces in this exhibition resist conventional categorization as Willaford has developed a more sophisticated relationship with his materials.

The medium was the message with Willaford's earliest explorations with vinyl, beginning in 2012. The work responded in a literal way to the printed content of the billboards that were cut, sewn, and quilted: a trellis of phallic symbols made from the billboard of an adult video store or a menacing school of fish constructed from a Sam's Club advertisement. Seven years later, Willaford is less concerned with preserving the medium's original intent and more interested in pushing the material into an unidentifiable state. Through a meticulously-honed additive and subtractive process that involves cutting, sewing, and painting with markers, spray paints, and latex paint, the vinyl is used to create objects that become their own entities and defy their original physical characteristics.

Along with this new mindset has come a new-found freedom in the artist's approach to creating his work. With minimal planning at the onset, forms are allowed to develop in a much more organic nature as fragments of vinyl are pieced together, a systemic action

that ultimately leads the direction of each construction. Willaford has developed an extensive visual vocabulary that includes net-like voids, protruding masses, and intricately sewn seams. In this more open-ended approach, nothing remains too precious to rework. Even as pieces are completed, their potential is continuously considered through being displayed alone as an individual organism or joined with other works to form larger colonies.

Willaford's history as a painter also comes through strongly in this body of work. Wherein earlier works large sections of vinyl were left untouched, the newest constructions are boldly painted to leave little unmarked. Vivid applications of spray paint are often used to create volume through color while paint markers visually reinforce composition and topography through drawing. Through this use of painting, Willaford can completely transform one's reading of the material. Interpretation of the constructions is further disrupted as glimmers of glossy vinyl surfaces suggest they could be fabricated from metal. Altogether, these elements catch one's eye from afar and invite for closer inspection.

As the title of the exhibition suggests, the work has been created after spending decided time away from the influence of factors outside the studio. This time has allowed Willaford to create his own rules for pushing the material in new and unexpected directions. *After a Long Pause...* is ultimately a celebration and rejection of the medium that Willaford has made his own.







after a long pause...



Artworks



Zeroing, 2019
Billboard Vinyl, acrylic paint,
nylon thread, polyester
56 x 38 x 9 in.



Ling Long, 2019

Billboard Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,

polyester

58 x 50 x 11 in.

\$7,200



She Dances Across The Water, 2019
Billboard Vinyl, acrylic paint,
nylon thread, polyester
53 x 78 x 9 in.
\$12,000

Tiger's Milk, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon
thread, polyester
53 x 47 x 9.
\$6,800





Trophic Chain Party, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
51 x 41 x 9 in.
\$6,800

Begin with an Ending, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
66 x 43 x 5 in.
\$6,800





Side Boob, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
90 x 132 x 9 in.
\$20,000



Pride of The Back Fields, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
26 x 27 x 10 in.
\$4,200



Tic of a Clock, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
56 x 67 x 7 in.
\$6,800



Private Screening, 2019
Billboard, Vinyl, acrylic paint, nylon thread,
polyester
66 x 46 x 8 in.
\$6,800

About the Artist

Jason Willaford received his BFA from Florida State University where he studied under Jim Roche and Color Field painter Trevor Bell. After years as an encaustic painter in Marfa, Texas, he shifted his focus to vinyl-based constructions, which were exhibited in a solo exhibition at Oklahoma Contemporary in 2014. In the summer of 2015, Willaford participated in a residency at the former home and studio of Elaine de Kooning in East Hampton, NY and presented the resulting body of work in a solo show at Dallas Contemporary that fall. Willaford's work can be found in over 200 private and the public collections, including Bloomingdales, Toyota, and Neiman Marcus, among others. He lives and works in Dallas, TX.

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