

mahan gallery

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press release

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mahan gallery opens exhibition, nearly, kate joranson, ryan agnew, ian ruffino, july 2-22, opening reception, saturday, july 2, 6-10pm.

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nearly is a three-person exhibition featuring works by ryan agnew, kate joranson, and ian ruffino.

ruffino work calls attention to the "objectness" of photographs by inflating their size while maintaining their scale. the viewer encounters thick slabs of paper coated with complex layers of pigment and emulsion. however, the thick paper is hand-made; pigment might include stains, threads, and marks. patterned grids of bumps become visible, and the thickness of the pictures becomes a ground for overlapping structure and non-structure. ruffino's works are pictures of time or a way of thinking about time.

agnew relishes in the unstable conditions of materials such as vegetable shortening, process cheese sauce, and lipstick. such semi-fluid substances are used in his sculptural work to address the body's permeability and daily excretions. substituting commercially manufactured products for both leaky bodies and excretions, agnew invites us to question our own emotions, needs, and desires in relation to consumer culture. two new sculptures by agnew find him embracing his in-between state with energetic optimism, as he plans to daily rearrange a set of materials (several hundreds of feet of garden hose, a cast paper cloud, and an egg yolk) throughout the gallery over the course of the three-week exhibition.

joranson's work addresses the pigment separate from the paint. she has used powders such as flour, powdered limestone, and powdered tempera paint to cover the wall and floor. joranson has combined the sifting of powders with the dragging of objects such as tables and chairs through the dust-covered surfaces, leaving marks of activity. joranson's current process brings salt and paper together, posing them in opposition, and watching as they couple and interact. various configurations, referred to as *salt papers* by joranson, are made by soaking paper in very dense salt-water and letting salt crystals grow on the paper as the water evaporates. she is interested in marks and forms that occur without being highly composed or arranged, but that happen as a result of everyday life.

the artists have collaborated together on a book published and made available by mahan gallery on the night of the opening during gallery hop.

the mahan gallery focuses on emerging and mid-career artists working in a variety of media, including painting, photography, and sculpture.

