

## OVERDUIN & CO.

Barry Johnston  
"Our Fertile Hand"  
June 26th – August 20th, 2016  
reception: Sunday, June 26th, 6-8pm

"Our Fertile Hand is part of an ongoing project, a kind of expanded publication that I've been knowingly and unknowingly working on for about a decade now. This publication brings together elements of sculpture, poetry, songwriting and live entertainment, as well as radio broadcasts, inspirational speaking, public outreach and/or propagandizing and/or vandalism. (At the moment I don't exactly have a title for the whole project, but sometimes I call it Festive Publications and sometimes I call it Final Party—names which refer back to the channels, the technologies and tactics through which the ideas are delivered. [And in a sense this is one of the main ideas of the work itself—to demonstrate and then celebrate the very methods and tools we use to free up spaces and times for ourselves to celebrate. 'To transform... tools into weapons, and weapons into jewelry', as the Final Party song goes.]) Transformation is what it's all about. Our Fertile Hand is another attempt to investigate to what extent we can transform the feeling of being *left behind by the world* into positive strategies to actively make that world disappear. To what extent can we inhabit the ruins of a civilization that does not know it has fallen? How can the rain pour down upon us, when the domes have not yet cracked and crumbled? How do we transform things *into events*? Each aspect of my work has a different role to play in this process. I think of the pieces in this show as being like the landmarks on a hand drawn map, leading me to a place I've been to before, but almost always get lost trying to find."

Barry Macgregor Johnston lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. He was born in Anton, IL in 1980. He studied at Webster University in St. Louis, MO and received his MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. His work has been exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, Isabella Bortolozzi in Berlin, Galerie Micky Schubert in Berlin, The International Project Space in Birmingham, UK, Misako and Rosen in Tokyo, and Galerie 10m2 in Sarajevo. He has performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and Galerie Micky Schubert in Berlin, among others. Since 2004, he has organized an expanded publication project called Festive Publications encompassing poetry, songwriting, performance, live broadcasting, and activism. His poems have appeared in the journals Time Again, F.R. David, Novel, and The Journal of the Valkenberg Hermitage.

For more information and images, please contact the gallery at [office@overduinandco.com](mailto:office@overduinandco.com).

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm and by appointment.