



# NEAR AT HAND

Works by Laura Davis, Karolina Gnatowski, and Allison Wade

The objects in *Near at Hand* command close inspection: familiar materials and techniques come together in unexpected ways. Laura Davis, Karolina Gnatowski, and Allison Wade present works that both elegant and accessible, skillfully utilizing craft to strike this balance. As such, the role of the hand can be seen as part of the conversation: evocative assemblages suggest their design underpinnings, balance is achieved through a delicate touch, and meticulous craft is used to commemorate Jimmy Page throughout his various ensembles. Although each artist approaches sculpture from a different angle, they share an interest in addressing questions of materiality, context, and the body.

**LAURA DAVIS** is a Chicago based artist whose work examines the intersection of craft, design and art by using display structures to conflate notions of value and context through sculpture, drawing and installation. Recently she has had solo exhibits at threewalls, the Elmhurst Art Museum and the Chicago Artists Coalition and been in group shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Hyde Park Art Center. Her work has been written about in *Art in America*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Art 21 Blog*, *Art Slant* and *Newcity*. Davis received her MFA from the University of Chicago in 2004, her BFA from The Cleveland Institute of Art in 1996 and teaches in the department of Contemporary Practices at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently Davis's work can be seen at her solo exhibit *Jewelry For My Mother(s) and Other Microaggressions* at the Chicago Cultural Center which runs through the end of 2016.

**KAROLINA GNATOWSKI** was born in Poland, 1980, and received her BFA from the University of The Arts in Philadelphia in 2002, then her MFA from The Art Institute Of Chicago in 2007. She currently works in her Chicago studio and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Fiber and Material Studies department at The School Of The Art Institute Of Chicago. Gnatowski's Illinois based Exhibitions include: *Adds Donna*, *moniquemeloche* gallery, *Lloyd Dobler*, *Gallery 400*, *LVL3*, *The Franklin*, *Lula*, *Tusk*, *Slow Gallery*, *LivingRoom Gallery*, *Hyde Park Art*

*Center*, Northern Illinois University Gallery, *Sputnik Press*, *The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art*, Northern Illinois University, and *Lollapalooza Music Festival*. Gnatowski also participated in the *ThreeWalls Winter CSA*, *MDW Art Fair* with *The Suburban* and *Start Up Art Fair*. Gnatowski's work has been highlighted in publications including *Studio Life: Rituals, Collections, Tools, and Observations on the Artistic Process* edited by Sarah Trigg; *Stranger Danger show Catalog*; *Bauhaus Now* show catalog and the *WorkWork Catalog*. Gnatowski's work has been featured in *LVL3media*, *Inside/Within*, *Hyperallergic*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Bialystok Gazeta*, *Chicago Art Review*, *New City Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Artist Writers*, *Kurier Poranny* and she is the recipient of the *Rosalie Borowski Belkin Award*.

**ALLISON WADE** is a visual artist working primarily in sculpture and drawing. She received her MFA from the Fiber and Material Studies Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and holds a BA in English literature from Stanford University. Recent solo shows include *Know Better* at *devening projects + editions* (Chicago) and *you and you and you* at *Trinity Christian College* (Palos Heights, IL). Additional exhibitions include *Ditch Projects* (Eugene, OR), *Scotty Enterprises* (Berlin), *Clough-Hanson Gallery* at *Rhodes College* (Memphis, TN), *La Esquina Gallery* (Kansas City, MO), *Riverside Arts Center* (Riverside, IL), and *LVL3* (Chicago). Wade has been awarded residencies at *Ox-Bow*, *ACRE*, *Mustarinda* (Finland), and the *Vermont Studio Center* and has been a visiting artist at *Miami University*, *Rhodes College*, the *Cranbrook Academy of Art's* *Ceramics Department*, and the *School of the Art Institute of Chicago's* *Interlink* program. Born and raised in Texas, she lives and works in Chicago, where she is a *Lecturer* in the *Department of Art Theory & Practice* at *Northwestern University*.

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