

VENUS

MANHATTAN LOS ANGELES

Fétiche

February 26 - April 16, 2016

Opening: Friday, February 26th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

VENUS

980 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10075

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ANDISHEH AVINI
HUMA BHABHA
WILL BOONE
BERNARD BUFFET
ALEXANDER CALDER
ELAINE CAMERON-WEIR
MAURIZIO CATTELAN
WALTER DAHN
JEAN DUBUFFET
JIMMIE DURHAM
LLYN FOULKES
MARK GROTJAHN
DAVID HAMMONS
DAMIEN HIRST
JEFF KOONS
DAVID MEDALLA
FRANCIS PICABIA
RICHARD PRINCE
LUCAS SAMARAS
ANDRA URSUTA



Fétiche (n.): *Objet culturel auquel sont attribuées des propriétés surnaturelles bénéfiques pour son possesseur. ("An object of cultural significance whose supernatural powers are beneficial to its owner.")*

(New York, NY) – VENUS is pleased to present **Fétiche**, a group show juxtaposing contemporary Western art with historic African and Oceanic works to examine the literal power that art objects confer. In the early Twentieth Century, African and Oceanic objects were popular collectibles and a source of inspiration for many European artists. Picasso references African aesthetics in several Cubist masterpieces, most notably *Les Femmes d'Alger*. Oceanic works from New Guinea and the Pacific Islands are frequently referenced in Surrealist art, and were collected by artists and poets

such as Alexander Calder and André Breton. African and Oceanic works often exist in a mystical or religious context, though in most instances their exact function remains unknown. Collectors have historically stripped them of their native contexts, instead focusing on their aesthetic "otherness." Today, these objects exist as curios or spoils of colonialism—rare and exotic souvenirs of cultures forever disrupted by the advance of Western civilization.

The modern and contemporary works included in the show have no overt spiritual or mystical purpose. Though not religious in a traditional sense, there is significant financial and metaphysical value placed on contemporary art, and its ownership grants power via social status and prestige. The various motivations to possess art are seldom explored, though the entire art market relies upon a system of beliefs that highlights issues of relevancy, timeliness, and critical consensus. *Fétiche* explores the ways in which contemporary and indigenous works bestow authority and power within significantly different social structures.

Fétiche will include a broad array of significant African and Oceanic works alongside important post-war and contemporary art by artists including **Andisheh Avini, Huma Bhabha, Will Boone, Bernard Buffet, Alexander Calder, Elaine Cameron-Weir, Maurizio Cattelan, Walter Dahn, Jean Dubuffet, Jimmie Durham, Lynn Foulkes, Mark Grotjahn, David Hammons, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, David Medalla, Francis Picabia, Richard Prince, Lucas Samaras, and Andra Ursuta.**

ABOUT VENUS

Founded in 2012 by Adam Lindemann and with spaces in Manhattan and Los Angeles, VENUS is dedicated to curated exhibitions both historic and contemporary, which cast a unique and often iconoclastic view on the

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work of established artists, or artists whose works have been somewhat overlooked. The gallery continues to collaborate with prominent artists, foundations, estates, and galleries.

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at info@venusovermanhattan.com

For all press inquiries related to the exhibition, please contact Prentice Cultural Communications by e-mail at bettina@prenticeart.com, or nicole@prenticeart.com; or by telephone at + 1 (212) 228-4048