

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***human* • NATURE**

- Etel Adnan • Oliver Boberg • Judy Pfaff • Wilhelm Mundt • Sally Egbert •
- Louisa Chase • Christine Neill • Donald Baechler • Lillian Hoover •
- Mark Strand • Joyce J. Scott •

Curated by Amy Eva Raehse
July – August 2017

The exhibition title, *human* . NATURE, is a play on words. It suggests the connection amidst humans, nature, and human nature.

The term *human nature* refers to the belief that humans have predictable ways of acting, rationalizing, or emoting based simply on being human. Of course, aspects of philosophy, art, science, literature, and theology consider various elements of nature and nurture to debate and challenge these ostensibly inherent behaviors, their bendability, and their potential limitations on what it means to be *human*.

For centuries artists have contested norms and ordinary ways of seeing, often contributing, through works of art, alternative positions for reflection. Artworks themselves are not part of human nature, rather, they are the artifact of human's needs for communication and for constructing things, both intellectually and physically. As such, one could claim the act of making art as *part* of human nature, whereas the artwork itself is a *symbol* of human nature.

One of the tenets of Aristotle's theories on human nature is that man is a mimetic being.

"From childhood men have an instinct for representation, and in this respect, differs from the other animals that he is far more imitative and learns his first lessons by representing things. And then there is the enjoyment people always get from representations ...we enjoy looking at likenesses of things ...The reason is this: Learning things gives great pleasure not only to philosophers but also in the same way to all other men... The reason why we enjoy seeing likenesses is that, as we look, we learn and infer what each is...If we have never happened to see the original, our pleasure is not due to the representation as such but to the technique or the color ...

-Aristotle. Aristotle in 23 Volumes, Vol. 23, translated by W.H. Fyfe. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd. 1932.

Human . NATURE is a group exhibition that explores each artist's relationship to nature, artistic practice, and the psychology of human nature; exploiting loose references to nature as a form of complicated armature by which to comment on the complexities of the human condition. The exhibition will feature 22 works in varied mediums authored by 11 nationally and internationally celebrated artists.

About Goya Contemporary

Goya Contemporary Gallery promotes the art and culture of our time by presenting new works and ideas through exhibitions, curatorial practice, catalogues, print publishing, artist representation, and by encouraging artistic collection. The gallery builds private & public collections, assist in acquisitions, and facilitates auction activity. Goya Contemporary has earned international acclaim for its thought-provoking exhibitions, innovative programming, and unique collaborations with artists, as well as our high ethical standards. Known as one of the most prestigious and long running galleries in the mid-Atlantic, Goya is dedicated to scholarly programming, and promoting the work of mid-career artists both internationally and locally.

Goya Contemporary is free and open to the public. Hours of operation: Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm / Saturday, noon-5pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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