

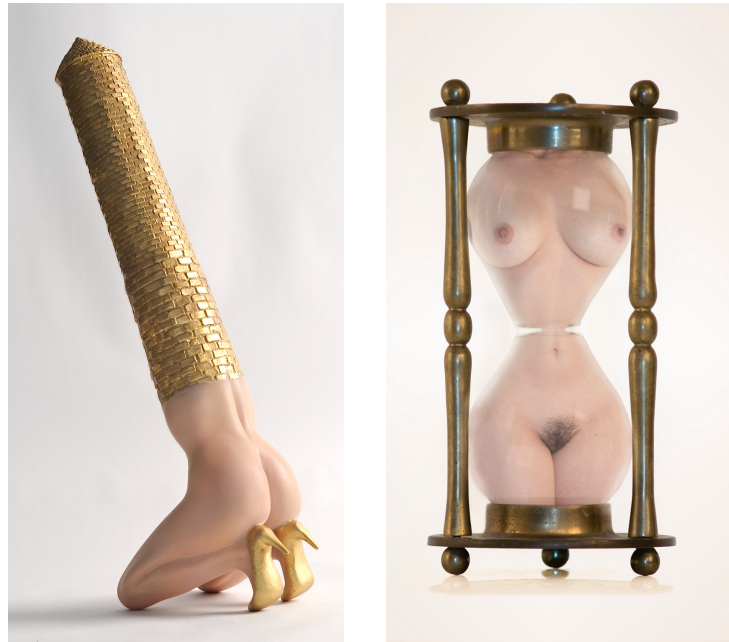
JASON VASS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016

ANNOUNCES

**DEBORAH BROWN: CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR
OCTOBER 29 – DECEMBER 17, 2016**

OPENING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016 6-9 PM
JASON VASS 1452 E. SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90021



LOS ANGELES - Jason Vass will present *Careful What You Wish For* featuring new works by UK-based, American artist Deborah Brown. An MFA graduate of UC Irvine, Brown has been living in the UK for 13 years. Critically acclaimed and widely collected in the US as an emerging artist in the 1990s, Brown has remained active with her practice and has continued to create work while maintaining a studio near London. This long-awaited exhibition, the first in the US since 1996, will feature new photographs, sculpture, and installation works created by Brown over the past decade, and marks a reemergence for the artist on the Coast where she began her career.

Brown explores the body as a site of identity, fragmentation, and desire. In her new installment of work, the artist offers overtly exaggerated expressions of feminine sexuality with playful complicity and co-optation. Her pieces are at once a critique of, and participation in, the

JASON VASS

cultural colonization of the human body as a locus of desire and revulsion. Often bordering on the grotesque, her imagery hyperbolizes sexuality, the body's abject proximity to death, and the psychologically irreconcilable nature of biologically essentialist demands. For Brown, the body is a site of failure and fulfillment, excess and deprivation, vanity and humiliation: a corporeal manifestation of the ego's psycho-spiritual struggle.

Careful What You Wish For will feature never before exhibited works in photography, drawing, sculpture, and installation. Conceptually conceived as a shrine to feminine desire, or at least an intentionally kitschy appropriation of male-dominated fetishistic vernaculars, (like those found in trucker culture, porn, and pinup), the exhibition intentionally questions the cultural discomfort associated with feminine expressions and assertions of want. Upon entering the gallery space, a truck door, accompanied by a truck stack, is emblazoned with a flaming vagina, a graphic theme entitled *You Might Get Burned*, reiterated throughout as a sort of talisman. A symbol, both comedic and subversive in this context, the fetish is excavated as a social and performative agent of meaning. Brown symbolically asserts the vagina as a signifier of danger and refusal rather than of sexual submission, intentionally altering our expectations of its cultural valence. As an added performance component to the exhibition, a vagina shaped piñata will occupy the center of the space as viewers are invited to beat it with a penis shaped bat midway through the opening.

In addition to ten new photographs, the exhibition will feature several installation vignettes staged throughout the gallery. These sculptural constellations create unexpected encounters and juxtapositions, each differing in tone and affect. In works such as *My Man*, an eight and a half foot penis hand carved from white cedar, Brown both objectifies and fetishizes the phallus, while playing with coexisting themes of desire and horror, attraction and repulsion. In other works such as *Do I Fulfill Your Expectations*, a five-foot long leather candy box shaped like a vagina and overflowing with half-eaten, castaway chocolates, the artist considers the consumption, waste, and degradation of the body. In *Am I Relevant* the female body is literally fragmented into cast aluminum parts and presented for misuse on a tray, a breast here a vagina there. A dissociated mass of body parts, Brown considers the self's dysfunction in an age of ubiquitous compartmentalization and digital dissection.

In *Careful What You Wish For*, Deborah Brown presents a complex, though playful, body of work in her highly anticipated return to the West Coast. Looking to the nebulous intersections of desire and imperative, lust and regret, self and other, Brown candidly unveils the body as a contentious site of conflicted impulses and unresolved demands.

ABOUT DEBORAH BROWN

Through sculpture, photography and drawings, the work of Deborah Brown continues to explore the ego, materialism, sexuality and the body. Brown is a Southern California artist who has been living in the UK for the past 13 years. She showed extensively in the 90's and was collected largely by Eileen and Peter Norton amongst many others. Her work generated great

JASON VASS

interest and received broad critical acclaim and is currently in 6 museum permanent collections. Brown was also the featured artist for the Barney's New York Christmas windows. She is now reemerging with a powerful new body of work, created over the past decade.

ABOUT JASON VASS

Situated in the burgeoning arts district neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles in a 2,700 square foot, space designed to accommodate diverse exhibitions and related programs, the gallery aims to create an exhibition program that offers a historical perspective through the lens of contemporary artists. The gallery is committed to cultivating emerging talent and supporting established artists from around the world. Exhibiting artists include: Luke Austin, Deborah Brown, Dan Callis, Mark Dutcher, Nancy Evans, Cynthia MacAdams and Douglas Tausik. The gallery manages the estate of Gene Vass.

Gallery founder Jason Vass is the son of Gene Vass, the youngest member of NYC's Cedar Tavern abstract expressionist group. His mother, Joan Vass, was a fashion designer and curator at MOMA where he spent much of his youth. His extraordinary parents influenced his eye and his passion for art. In the 1980's Vass was managing partner at contemporary art gallery Patrick Fox in NYC. After moving from New York to Los Angeles, Vass opened his first gallery on Santa Monica's Montana Avenue in 1992 where he developed a reputation as a well-known and internationally respected dealer of posters, prints and limited-edition museum quality fine art lithographs. He has since owned galleries in Santa Monica and Santa Fe. More info at jasonvass.com

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 6pm and Sunday 12pm to 4pm

Image Credit Left to Right: Deborah Brown, *I Only Wanted a Little*, 2012. Resin, 19.5" x 6" photo credit: Arif Gardner. Deborah Brown, *Get Me Out of Here*, 2015, C-Type Photograph, 32" x 48"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Lyn Winter, +1 213 446 0788, lyn@lynwinter.com

Livia Mandoul, +1 407 919 93924, livia@lynwinter.com

###