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## Perversion of Form

March 31 - May 13, 2017



Built around a longstanding conversation between artists **Robert Beatty, Sarah Briland, Ryan Crowley, Ben Durham, and Mike Goodlett**, *Perversion of Form* explores the parallels between these artists' adversarial attraction to traditional forms of art-making. Although they often work in strikingly different media, each artist employs compulsive, process-based practices as a means of engaging yet subverting the prevailing notions and functions of their craft. The ambiguities at play in their work reflect an attraction to and reaction against the pre-existing systems, products, and infrastructures that dominate our sense of self and the surrounding world. Spanning drawing, sculpture, video, and sound, this work reveals a need to experience the world through the transformation of material, and a desire to speak not of function, comfort, and beauty, but of doubt, unease, and corporeality.

**Robert Beatty** is an artist and musician based in Lexington, KY. He records experimental music as Three Legged Race and is a member of noise band Hair Police. He's become one of the most sought after figures in contemporary album art, as well as creating videos, installations, and illustrations for publications as diverse as Lucky Peach, The Wire

Magazine, and The New York Times. In 2016, Beatty's debut monograph Floodgate Companion was published. <http://www.robertbeattyart.com>

**Sarah Briland** received an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BFA from Washington University in St. Louis. Her work has been exhibited nationally including shows at KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, the Reynolds Gallery in Richmond, VA, and UrbanGlass, in Brooklyn, NY. In 2014, she was an Emerging Artist-in-Residence at Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, Washington. <http://www.sbriland.com>

**Ryan Crowley** is a Richmond, VA based sculptor. Originally from Boston, Crowley studied sculpture and painting at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. In 2012 Crowley earned his MFA from the Department of Sculpture and Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the recipient of a 2014 VMFA Professional Fellowship Award. [rysculpture00.tumblr.com](http://rysculpture00.tumblr.com)

**Ben Durham** has exhibited internationally, including solo shows at Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery in New York, Marc Selwyn Fine Art in Los Angeles, Lora Reynolds Gallery in Austin, and Reynolds Gallery in Richmond. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Flag Art Foundation, the Hammer Museum, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. <http://www.bendurhamstudio.com>

**Mike Goodlett** is based in Wilmore, KY. His work has been widely exhibited, including solo exhibitions at the Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, Christian Berst Gallery, New York, NY, and Institute 193, Lexington, KY. He's recently been included in group exhibitions at Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA, and KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY. <http://mikegoodlett.tumblr.com/>

### **Related Events:**

**Opening reception:** Friday, March 31, 6 - 8 pm

**Blues Control and Robert Beatty**, at Black Iris

Saturday, April 1, Doors open at 7:30; Performance at 8 pm.

Artist Robert Beatty will be performing a solo electronic set alongside experimental music duo Blues Control.

<http://grupabluescontrol.com>

<https://soundcloud.com/bluescontrol>

<https://threeleggedrace.bandcamp.com>

*Image: Ryan Crowley, "Miss Moss," 2016, plaster, blown borosilicate glass, iron hardware, foam sponge, enamel, #2 pencil erasers, epoxy, 12" x 8" x 4." Image credit: Terry Brown Photography*

1708 Gallery's 2016-2017 exhibition season is generously supported in part by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Allan and Margot Blank Foundation, Jay Barrows, Jana Blue, Page Bond, Deborah Boschen, Molly Dodge, Sarah and Josh Eckhardt, Mary Fleming, John Freeman, John Freyer and Sasha Waters Freyer, Hank and Natalie Greenberg, Suzanne Hall, Ashley Kistler, Andrea Levine, Katie and Danny MacNelly, Lucy Meade, Bill and Pam Royall, Michael Schewel and Priscilla Burbank Schewel, Joe and Suzanne Seipel, Andy and Jill Stefanovich, Craig and Donna Suro, Marcia and Harry Thalhimer, Ted and Katie Ukrop, Julie and Paul Weissend, Caroline and Richard Wright, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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