

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
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RLWindow

Letitia Quesenberry
Memento Vivere
May 12 – June 17, 2017
On view nightly 4–11PM

RYAN LEE is pleased to present *Memento Vivere*, a single channel video installation by Letitia Quesenberry. *Memento Vivere* reveals a backlit figure showering behind a gauze curtain, transforming the RLWindow space into a home that faces the High Line to recreate the experience of witnessing a private moment while walking along the public park. *Memento Vivere* relies on the voyeuristic impulse, indulging this taboo while simultaneously interrogating it.

When trains ran the length of the High Line, passengers would have seen only a glimpse of life and scenery in Chelsea. Now, the meandering pace of foot traffic invites observation and encourages absorption. The choice to look, and the deliberate choice to continue looking, become formal elements of *Memento Vivere*. Correlating the duration of one's looking to the act's ultimate impropriety, Quesenberry questions when it is off-limits to stare and when looking becomes necessary engagement with the forbidden. The willingness of the viewer to participate in the act of intimate, perhaps inappropriate watching will be extended and challenged with each successive window as the viewer continues their trajectory on the High Line and beyond.

Letitia Quesenberry (b. 1971 Louisville, KY) explores subtlety and obscurity to investigate memory and perception. While her drawings, photographs, lightboxes, videos, and text-based installations vary in approach and message, her work frequently considers the many ways in which certainty is elusive and ambiguity is compelling. Quesenberry has had solo exhibitions at Pieter PASD, Los Angeles; Rockford University; and Smack Mellon, Brooklyn. Her work has also been included in exhibitions at 21C Museums, Louisville; Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art; Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville; Pierogi Gallery, New York; Rare Gallery, New York; the Speed Art Museum, Louisville; and the US Ambassador Residence, Stockholm. Large-scale commissions includes scenic design for two productions by the Louisville Ballet. Quesenberry is the recipient of Efroymsen Contemporary Arts Fellowship (2008), Great Meadows Foundation Artists Professional Development Grant (2016), and Kentucky Arts Council Al Smith Fellowship (2004). She lives and works in Louisville, KY.

RLWindow is a dedicated exhibition space featuring video, installation, and performance art designed to engage High Line visitors, viewable from the elevated public park at 26th Street. Utilizing the gallery's position overlooking the High Line and its visibility to more than 5 million yearly visitors, RLWindow is a platform for innovative, experimental, and collaborative projects by international contemporary artists, including both invited and gallery-represented artists. RYAN LEE invites you to join the conversation by tagging #RLWindow and #ryanleegallery in social media posts. Find us on Instagram @ryanleegallery!

On view concurrently is Gabriel Lester: *If you happen to be* (April 13 – May 20). Forthcoming exhibitions include Bradley Castellanos: *Sunshine State* and Katy Stone: *Holding Time* (May 25 – June 29). For press inquiries, please contact Bridget Casey at bridget@ryanleegallery.com or 212-397-0742.