

REENA SPAULINGS FINE ART  
165 EAST BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10002

+ 1 212 477-5006  
reena@reenaspaulings.com  
www.reenaspaulings.com

ED LEHAN  
*Return to Problem*

May 17 – June 14, 2015

A dropped ceiling is either the first thing installed or the first thing torn out when opening a new urban spot. Framing an obligation to show up and capitalize on reciprocity, a “discussion island” also frames a pressure to push forward within the perpetual present of a mutually agreed subjugation. Seeming to go backward by repeating relational aesthetics is a neutral, possibly weak move at a time when contact and connection no longer feel empowering, more like how we get lost in the reproduction of our own crisis. Meanwhile, competitive individualism still presents as conflict averse within a social scenario adjoined to the non-stop remaking of capitalist space.

So basically it's not just doing your own thing but making sure everyone knows you're "doing your own thing" and who cares about following through on plans because "the city is crazy" and "I've got shit to do" and "my bad." The scene is trained to completely devour a show that makes any gesture whatsoever. A work with mojitos draws out the anxious moment of its own devouring. Its openness and its energy, which include us all, are the means by which the work momentarily suspends itself before giving way to dealer/collector time and dinner.

The obligation to frack the new is answered in the neutral. A dropped ceiling agrees to be a work and stays neutral. The mojito indexes the aging gentrification that coincides with the production and consumption of metropolitan experience, the greying of the feel-good yuppie zone. “Experiencer” is an available subject position within a known history, possibly a user of its own crisis.

This is Ed Lehan's first solo exhibition in New York. He has previously shown at Cubitt/London (2013), Formalist Sidewalk Poetry Club/Miami and New York (2013, 2012, 2011), Temnikova and Kasela/Tallinn (2012), and Limazulu/London (2012).

Gallery Hours: Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6pm.