

MATERIAL
SCOTT VINCENT CAMPBELL
April 26 - May 25, 2019

My artistic practice revolves around a fascination with material culture and semiotics. I am interested in exploring the process by which we imbue objects and symbols with meaning. The forms and aesthetics in my work are often inspired by the everyday items that people use to build and define their culture. I strive to make works that lie at the intersection of drawing and symbol; sculpture and object; performance and ritual.

I create distinct bodies of work, each grounded in a set of aesthetic guidelines that function as signifiers of their conceptual underpinnings, and dictate their form, materiality, and imagery. Each series works with a different idea; examining social and cultural constructs that inform our identities, motivate behavior, and help shape our societies. This inquiry often starts from a place of personal reflection, and spirals outward to find points of commonality within a larger discourse.

I named this exhibition Material because all of the works are very much informed by the idea of the object. The individual pieces function as totems; expressions of the particular idea that the larger body of work is concerned with. The materials that they're made of are an integral way of translating that meaning. I mine materials for their existing associations and qualities to help form a larger dialogue of my own making.

On view in Material are two separate bodies of work: *Not Good but Well Behaved*, and *F.O.O.L (Fabric of our Lives)*. The choice of rubber in the *Not Good but Well Behaved* series is meant to convey the specific notions of protection and buffering. The forms of the sculptures reference objects often associated with this as well: gates, fences, barriers, shields, masks, etc. Of particular concern in this exhibition is the idea of the ceremonial object.

F.O.O.L (Fabric of our Lives) explores the idea of collective trauma as a unifying agent; the duality of using a common pain as a source of strength and building block. Through the lens of American history, the materials of cotton and wood lath are used as signifiers for the two respective sides of that coin: cotton and the slave trade; wood lath and home construction/ownership. The resin works as a binder, holding everything together.