

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jude Tallichet: *Heat Map*
Summer McCorkle: *des abends*

March 7–April 12, 2020

Opening Reception: March 7, 6–8 PM

Cricket Concert: March 21, 4 PM

Artist Talk: April 2, 6:30–8 PM

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Image left: Jude Tallichet, *Heat Map*, 2018, Forton, metal braces, expandable foam, 35" x 190" x 68". Courtesy of the artist.
Image right: Summer McCorkle, *des abends* (still), 2020, two-channel video, running time: 14 min. Courtesy of the artist.

Smack Mellon is pleased to present two new solo exhibitions, **Jude Tallichet: *Heat Map*** and **Summer McCorkle: *des abends***, opening concurrently on Saturday, March 7, 2020. In these two exhibitions, each artist depicts the landscape, whether urban or bucolic, as a charged and foreboding place. **Jude Tallichet's** life-size sculptures of cars, sidewalk trees, and feral animals are ghostly and menacing. **Summer McCorkle's** two-channel video immerses the viewer in a harsh winter scene, with narration that is both poignant and disquieting.

Summer McCorkle

des abends

Multimedia artist Summer McCorkle works in moving image, photography, and site-specific photo-based installation to play with perception and to reflect on unseen forces at work. Her practice involves engaging with a site—whether a natural setting or manmade space—and making videos or photographs in response to her findings on location. History, artifacts, and architecture at the site inform her investigation, which she then spins into an open-ended narrative that heightens the experience of place. Her stories often explore our relationship to the natural world, inspired by the contrasts of awareness and surprise, banality and wonder that can be experienced in places of expansive peacefulness and beauty.

Filed in the countryside of Finland and in New Hampshire, Summer McCorkle's two-channel video piece, *des abends*, combines a fictional narrative recounted over images of snowy landscapes, with excerpts from Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* woven throughout. McCorkle wrote and filmed this piece over a period of time while her father grappled with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. The film resembles a visual poem that explores memory, discovery, loss, and the struggle to comprehend an unfamiliar world. A sense of loneliness pervades, as the female narrator reflects on the surreal effects that the short winter days and harsh landscape can have on the mind. Meanwhile, a male voiceover weaves in and out of her storyline, reciting passages from *Frankenstein* in which the creature struggles to understand his surroundings and strives to express his thoughts and feelings. Both of their stories address grief and coming to terms with things we cannot control. Piano music from Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestücke Op. 12 no. 1, Des Abends* (1837) is played throughout this piece. The score for the film was composed of excerpts of the piano player learning the piece until they could finally play it in full. These passages and fragments reflect a struggle in the mind between learning and forgetting.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, McCorkle now lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her work has been shown in The National Portrait Gallery in London, the Bronx Museum, Wave Hill in the Bronx, The Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA, and various other venues in San Francisco, London, New York, and Guadalajara, Mexico. McCorkle has also participated in artist residencies on a ship in the Arctic Circle, in a historic home at Wave Hill in the Bronx, at a former school at the Arteles Creative Center in Finland, in a former church at Residency Unlimited in Brooklyn, and at a lovely cabin at the MacDowell Colony. She also participated in the Artist in the Marketplace (AIM) Program at the Bronx Museum. Her cinematography work on various films has been shown at Sundance, Untitled-Art Basel, Switzerland; Yvon Lambert Gallery, Paris; and various other venues in Europe, Canada, and the U.S. McCorkle earned an MFA from Hunter College and a BA in photography from San Francisco State University.

S m a c k M e l l o n

Jude Tallichet

Heat Map

Jude Tallichet fabricates sculptures of mundane items using materials drawn largely from the construction industry, such as acrylic, gypsum and rolled aluminum foil to remake the quotidian into the fantastic. Sidewalk curbs, motorcycles, fire escapes, and upright pianos are transformed to reveal their inherent power with an energy entirely separate from our own. Tallichet explains, "The vitality of these things could be magical, or it just could be life as we don't quite know it." She doesn't mind the uncertainty; in fact, she embraces it. Stripped of intended purpose, each sculpture represents a once functional object reborn with a fresh new role to play.

At Smack Mellon, Tallichet's exhibition features recent works that depict a world on the verge of dystopia; inanimate objects awakened as hybrid creatures inhabiting a roiling landscape in the throes of irreversible transformation, destruction and reconfiguration. The city becomes a staging ground for clashes between the organic and inorganic, the active and inert. *Cerebrus* is a three-headed bobcat that appears to be an amalgamation of animal, plant, and mineral. *Heat Map*, a cast from a sprawling tree trunk on a sidewalk in Queens, represents the clash between urban space and natural landscape. The artist was intrigued by the sight of a massive trunk and its root system lifting up the pavement and breaking the curb and asphalt. Colored with rare earth pigments and resembling a volcano, the pattern running across this sculpture refers to heat maps used to detail weather and climate. Viewers are reminded that green space is not only social but political as well. Cast in aluminum foil, *Piano Forte* undulates, crumples, and leaps off the ground, like the crinkled spirit of what a piano once was. Fine wood details from the original instrument are visible in the crushed foil. Silver legs, flexed at the ankle, jut out from the bottom, as if propelling the wild machine into the air.

Born in Louisville, KY, Tallichet currently lives and works in Queens, NY. She has exhibited nationally and internationally in venues such as the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, the Burnet Gallery in Minneapolis, the Konsthallen in Gothenburg, Sweden, The Shanghai Biennial in China, The Busan Biennial in South Korea, The Tirana Biennial in Albania, the *Officina America* exhibition in Bologna, Italy, and at Pierogi Gallery in Leipzig, Germany. In New York, she was included in the inaugural Greater New York Show at MoMA PS1, *Treble* at Sculpture Center, and *Brooklyn Next* at the Brooklyn Museum. From 2000 to 2009, she had six solo exhibitions at Sara Meltzer Gallery in New York. Her Cricket Farm project is on view at Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, until May 2020. Tallichet spent a year in Brazil as a Senior Fulbright Fellow in 1996 and has received fellowships in sculpture from the National Endowment for the Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts. She has participated in residencies at the Rosa de la Cruz Collection, the MacDowell Colony, the Millay Colony, and the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbertide, Italy. She is Professor Emeritus, Sculpture, at Tyler School of Art. Tallichet earned an MFA in sculpture from the University of Montana.

S m a c k M e l l o n

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