



Sara Kay Gallery Presents Joseph La Piana: *Tension Between*
On view from April 3, 2018 – May 19, 2018



Joseph La Piana *Tension* Installation View

(New York, NY) **Sara Kay Gallery** is pleased to present *Tension Between*, a solo exhibition by Joseph La Piana, on view from April 3 to May 19, 2018. The exhibition will present a site-specific installation and works on paper from the artist's *Tension* series, including various relief drawings on watercolor paper, vellum and chipboard.

Constructed of latex bands saturated in talc powder, La Piana's *Tension* installations push the capabilities of static materials by testing its tensile strength and expandability. In 2015 the artist constructed a large-scale site-specific installation within an industrial warehouse in Red Hook that utilized 11,000 feet of yellow latex stretched back and forth across the space's concrete structural pillars. La Piana further activated the space with an audio file of the latex bands snapping. "The first *Tension* relief painting that I did clearly informed me of the capacity of the material, as it snapped with such kinetic force that it sent me to the emergency room. The audio component of the 2015 installation was meant to honor that force and remind the viewer that the installation is active, and the material is being stretched to the edge of breaking point," said the artist.

In Spring 2019, together with NYC Parks and the Fund for Park Avenue's Sculpture Committee, La Piana will unveil six monumental *Tension* sculptures constructed of polyurethane, silicon and rebar along the Park Avenue Mall from 53rd to 72nd Streets. The sculptures will be viewable from both sides of traffic and all buildings along the Park Avenue corridor. "The *Tension* sculptures that I have conceptualized for Park Avenue will engage, activate and interact with the surrounding environment. These living sculptures will absorb and expound the energy from one of New York's most highly trafficked thoroughfares," said La Piana.

"We are thrilled to build anticipation of the Park Avenue project by highlighting the *Tension* series— engineering feats that preserve the elements of tension in nature within a fixed artwork," explained Sara Kay. "I'm especially excited to present La Piana's works on paper as they serve as the blue-print, the DNA for the various stages of life leading up to the sculpture. They provide us with an understanding of how tension can work and be transformed in space."

Joseph La Piana

Joseph La Piana (b. 1966) lives and works in New York. He has exhibited at various prestigious institutions including The Andy Warhol Museum, Los Angeles; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Pioneer Works, New York; The Glass House, New Canaan, CT; DIA Art Foundation, New York; and the Watermill Center.

Sara Kay Gallery

Founded in 2017, Sara Kay Gallery emphasizes the intersection of multi-various art historical periods and movements, and a commitment to the support of female artists. Sara Kay also specializes in the sale of 20th century blue-chip and contemporary artworks. The gallery serves as a meeting place for critical dialogue, collaboration and community building, offering events and workshops, as well as, an annual working residency for a female artist.

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