

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Laura Shill
Separation Perfected

October 6 - November 4, 2017
Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 2017 6 - 8pm
Artist walkthrough: Friday, October 6, 2017, 6:30pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present Laura Shill's first exhibition with the gallery, *Separation Perfected*. This installation in the gallery's project room, constructs a contemporary altarpiece to the omniscient presence in the lives of contemporary humans—the smart phone. In the face of corrupt systems and uncertain times, the masses find solace in a curated and virtual reality. "Separation Perfected", named for the first chapter in Guy Debord's prescient 1967 text *The Society of the Spectacle*, revisits the idea that "life is presented as an immense accumulation of spectacles. Everything that was directly lived has receded into a representation." As we increasingly experience our lives as documentation of experience, are we creating a new definition of experience that reflects our discomfort with the present conditions of our existence? This installation creates an altar to the selfie, mirroring our desires and underlying anxieties. We are both together and alone in our filtered feed of images in which we exist to each other as image-objects.

As our relationships with our devices becomes ever more intimate—for many, the smart phone is the last thing we touch before bed and the first thing we reach for in the morning, when we are alone, we reach for them reflexively, and to be away from our phones creates a sort of anxiety akin to a phantom limb—it becomes clear that they have become extensions of our own bodies. And as we gaze into the mirror window of the smart phone, it simultaneously connects and isolates.

This work is not meant to serve as an indictment of our increasingly visual culture, but seeks to understand better how the constant act of looking and being looked at is changing our species and altering human experience in ways we don't yet fully understand. Asking what it means to be present in multiple places at once, begs the additional question of what it means to be present at all. And if we are so truly connected to each other, then why are we so lonely?

About Laura Shill

Laura Shill is an artist based in Denver, Colorado whose work is a collision of sculpture, installation, performance, printmaking, and photography. Her work addresses ideas of the viewer and the subject, disclosure and concealment, absence and intimacy. Her works explore the transformative potential of people and objects through early and experimental forms of image making that pair the sinister and beautiful.

Shill earned an MFA in Interdisciplinary Media Arts Practices from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2012 and has exhibited her work nationally and internationally at the 2017 Venice Biennale at the European Cultural Center, The Gallery Of Contemporary Art, Colorado Springs, Redline Gallery, Denver, and Hyperlink Gallery, Chicago. Her recent solo exhibition, *Phantom Touch* took place at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

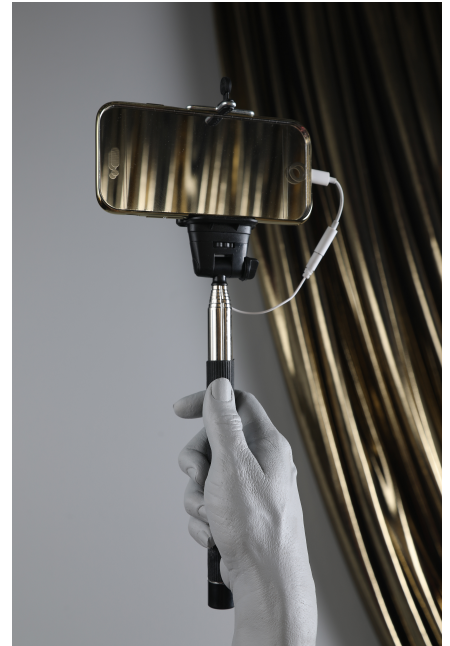


Image: Laura Shill, *Separation Perfected* (detail), 2017, plaster, selfie sticks, laser-cut mirror, fabric, dimensions variable.