



NATHAN GRIMES Born in the Great Smoky Mountains and raised in the swamps of the Florida panhandle, Nathan Grimes is an interdisciplinary artist currently based in Holly Springs, North Carolina. His creative practice explores visual art, poetry, music, engineering, and stuff from the dumpster. As a collector, converter, composer, and conductor, Grimes is concerned with interrelating fragments of various kinds. To this conceptual end, no medium, object, or idea is off limits. Grimes has exhibited both nationally and internationally. He received a BFA in Studio Art/Painting from Florida State University, and an MFA in Studio Art/Painting from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign.

TODD JONES was born in Tallahassee, Florida, and is based in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is an Assistant Professor and Gallery Director for the Art Department at Meredith College. Jones received his BFA with a double major in Studio Art and Psychology from Florida State University, an MFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Painting + Drawing, and a Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts Management from Ohio University. Jones has been an artist in residence at several notable creative arts centers and has exhibited his work nationally.

Inside panel: Todd Jones, *Oculus: 2*. Cover, top–bottom: Nathan Grimes, *HOLM, HOME, HOMME*, detail; Todd Jones, *Oculus: 2*, detail.

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PILLOWS AND CRADLES

NATHAN GRIMES +
TODD JONES

MARCH 1–APRIL 28 2024





PILLOWS AND CRADLES



Our physical interactions with objects and spaces leave traces of ourselves even in our absence. This residual material evidence serves as a reminder of both our impermanence and our impact on the world around us. Intimate daily records, such as the impression of a head on a pillow, are small gestures akin to greater forces around us both natural and constructed, such as the redevelopment of established neighborhoods, or the destruction of a passing storm. In both instances there are traces of the past that remain even after monumental change. When we stop to take notice of the evidence of our daily lives, we become more attuned to the larger impacts of these larger forces around us. This awareness can create a simultaneous sense of comfort and anxiety.

Artists Todd Jones and Nathan Grimes explore these ideas in their exhibition, *Pillows and Cradles*. In this work "Layers of material and memory settle, accumulate, and upheave revealing a complex surface. This surface, like every surface, tells a story." The artists ask us to consider "What does this story mean to you?" By incorporating found, often

discarded objects, and embracing both their materiality and the stories these objects contain, the artists perform a transformative process, which works to communicate a complex narrative while blurring the boundaries of painting and sculpture. Both artists' work conjures the idea of the law of contagion, a concept which suggests that contact between a person and an object results in the transference of properties between the two. With this idea in mind, the discarded house paint that Jones employs in his finished works, retains some aspect of the person and the home where it was initially used. Similarly, the broken shards of glass in Grimes' sculpture contain some trace of the place from which they were sourced. This imbues the work with an air of mystery and familiarity that offers new possibilities for viewers to approach the material world.

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ANNAH LEE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Far left: Nathan Grimes, *HOLM, HOME, HOMME*, detail. At left, Todd Jones, *Quarry: 2*. At right: Nathan Grimes, *lean-to*.

