

Library

Ricardo Valentim

29 January – 06 March, 2016

Svetlana

New York NY

646 647 5869

Saturdays 12-6

<http://svetlanagallery.com>

Svetlana is pleased to present *Library*, an exhibition by Ricardo Valentim.

Two years ago a Danish arts institution circulated a press release that told the story of some sculptures. The artist Ricardo Valentim had come upon these works quite by chance. Toiling in a Manhattan woodshop sometime in 2006, Valentim was cutting two-by-four wooden studs into smaller parts. As he stacked these units together on the floor one evening, he became aware of certain formal qualities that resonated with a unique quality. Observing the wooden stacks over a few days, he realized that he had created sculpture. Formal and stark, Valentim began to understand his compositions as screens, through which significance and meaning would soon circulate.

Since that time, Valentim has elaborated these wooden sculptures into groups of six discrete types. He called these works *Tablets*, and together they constituted a “library” of forms. Each group of tablets would become vehicles for producing new projects and bodies of works that were presented at a number of galleries and museums. These projects have include: *Contents of the Lecture “Models of Democracy”* (2007-2012); *The Unacceptables* (2010); *Five Parcels (for Jacob)* (2013); and his ongoing project *Rosa Jones Work 1973 – 1983* (2014-). *Library*, shown for the first time at Svetlana, presents the tablets’ ur-form, the kernel of activity they would engender in each of their later iterations.

Also on view in the gallery is *Five Parcels (for Jacob)*, a series of tablets inhabited by a mass of postage stamps, conveying the sexlessness of unrealized geographic dispersal. This work was originally produced as a set of parcel mail to be sent to curator Jacob Fabricius for his exhibition “Post” (2013) at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg. Due to US mailing restrictions, however, they were unable to reach Copenhagen in time for the exhibition. They have since remained in the artist’s studio in Greenpoint, until their recent placement in Svetlana’s foyer gallery, much like packages awaiting retrieval. It’s possible, meanwhile, that another another pick-up attempt will be scheduled with USPS during the run of the show.

* * *

Born in Loulé, Portugal in 1978, Ricardo Valentim lives and works in New York. His work has been exhibited internationally, including exhibitions at Tel Aviv Museum of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv; Frac Île-de-France/Le Plateau, Paris; MUSAC - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León; Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen; and CAPC, Bordeaux. He has also participated in Manifesta 7, Trentino – South Tyrol; and MDE11, Medellín. In 2012, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art in Porto published *Growth and Culture*, the first monograph of his work in conjunction with his solo exhibition there. Valentim's work is currently featured in "Artists' Voices", a group exhibition at the Centre d'Édition Contemporaine in Geneva.



Credits: Montrose Avenue station, New York, 2013
E-6 120mm color slide