



*Gaylen Gerber*

20 September - 21 December

**Opening Reception:** 20 September 2018 at 6 – 7:30 p.m.

**Gallery Talk with Forrest Nash:** 21 September 2018 at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

The Arts Club of Chicago is pleased to present the first survey of Gaylen Gerber's *Supports*, an ongoing series in which the artist intervenes upon collected artifacts. Offering pause for reflection on a shared history, Gerber's art is indebted to both the monochrome and the readymade. *Supports* features objects of diverse origin, each painted uniformly in institutional gray or white. Whether a mirror from the Kennedy winter White House, a Brazilian *milagre*, or a vintage coke bottle, each is undated and bears the title *Support*. Gerber's attentive, almost "reverential" brushstrokes, as Roberta Smith has described them in the *New York Times*, render the objects visible in a new way. This survey elaborates on the decentralization of attention while it affirms the all-encompassing aspects of the artists' practice.

For his exhibition at The Arts Club of Chicago, Gerber places the works in the gallery to suggest a cohesive visual field, yet at the same time, he differentiates each object through the regularity of its painted surface. The resulting installation encourages recognition of a shared reality, even as it enables diverse emotional responses to individual *Supports*, ranging from delight to distress. Gerber acknowledges the undertakings of vast cultural traditions as well as their often beautiful, sometimes poignant limitations. The exhibition further addresses a larger question about how and why objects so often remain compelling. The survey affirms the more inclusive aspects of the artist's practice. The *Supports* emphasize the individual histories as well as reflect our perception of them in the present.

Gaylen Gerber has exhibited widely including monographic and cooperative projects at Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg; The Art Institute of Chicago; Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago.

Image Credits: Gaylen Gerber, *Support*, n.d., oil paint on Goldwater campaign promotion (Barry's View Mine Too), HRB Suppliers, Tucson, Arizona, Gold card, die-cut in the shape of horn-rim glasses with Republican elephant, 1964, 3 1/4 x 6 1/2 x 5 1/8 inches (8.3 x 15.8 x 13 cm); Gaylen Gerber, *Support*, n.d., oil paint on *milagre* or ex-voto of a head with an abnormal growth, Sertão region, Brazil, terra-cotta, early 20th century, 4 3/4 x 3 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches (12.1 x 8.2 x 8.2 cm). Photographs courtesy of the artist and Tom Van Eynde.

*The Arts Club of Chicago is located at 201 East Ontario Street. Exhibitions are free and open to all. Gallery hours are Tuesday- Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.*

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