



THEY

A Collective Exhibition

Private viewing: Wednesday May 9, 2018
Exhibition: May 10 to June 10, 2018

8629 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069

LCDQLA's Legends, La Cienaga Boulevard and Melrose Avenue

In May, Galerie Carole Decombe will take part for the second year in "Legends", an annual event organized by the West Hollywood association LCDQLA that brings together art and design enthusiasts from across the United States. The theme of this year's window design event is "Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Home". Carole Decombe's vision is based on the keyword "They"¹, which she suggests conjures up two concepts.

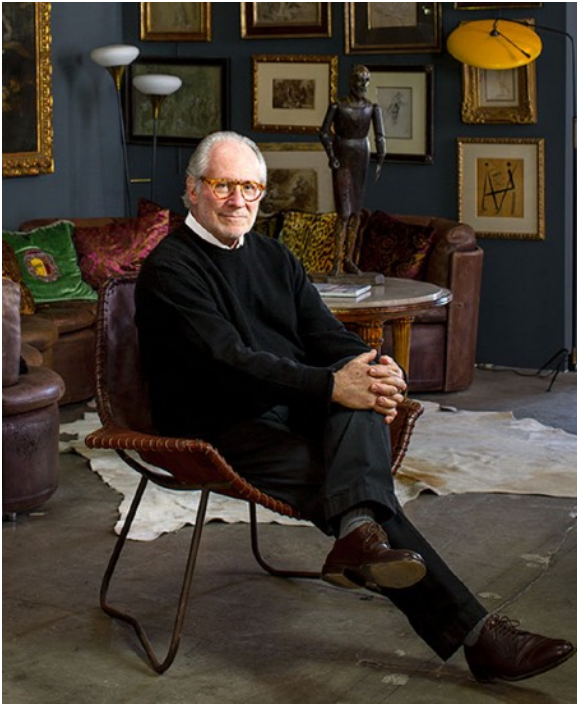
In the windows of Richard Shapiro's gallery on La Cienaga Boulevard that Carole has been asked to design, she will demonstrate that creativity and talent are gender-neutral. In this home of the future, stereotypes will be broken as femininity and masculinity are reinvented. The key pieces of "They" will be works by the ceramic artist Isabelle Sicart and the designer Emmanuel Levet Stenne.

In Carole's showroom, the window decorated by Alexandra Loew and the exhibition as a whole will illustrate how, through their combined efforts, artists have created "They", a unique, open and sophisticated home of the future. Dialogue produces and stimulates creativity, talents and expertise meet to create a unique and successful project. The display will include works by E.F. Kitchen, a photographer from Los Angeles, and three French artists who will go to LA especially for the occasion: the ceramic artist Isabelle Sicart and the creators Nicolas and Sébastien Reese.

Through "They", Carole Decombe gives us her vision of the home of the future, a home where talents work together in a spirit of openness and creativity to create the unique home to which she aspires.

¹They = in English, a third-person plural pronoun and/or a gender-neutral plural personal pronoun used to designate a single person whose gender is undetermined.

RICHARD SHAPIRO



Richard Shapiro, a lifelong devotee of the arts, has over the years played several intertwining roles in the pursuit of his passions.

A thirty-five-year collector of iconic postwar contemporary art, he served for many years on the Board of Trustees at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

He has for seventeen years presided over his own eponymous gallery, Richard Shapiro Studiolo, specializing primarily in very fine and rare furniture and design from antiquity through the Twentieth century, as well as Studiolo, his fifty-piece collection of moderne furniture.

His selections reflect the eclectic style that has become his trademark and range across many cultural lines. He purchases for the gallery as he would for himself -- as a private collector and connoisseur, renowned for his ability to seek out only the unique pieces he finds novel and of great artistic merit. Shapiro has for many years been sought out as an

arbiter on matters related to contemporary art, interior decoration, design, architecture and gardens.

Richard Shapiro's interiors, gardens and architectural design work have been prominently featured in *Elle Decor*, *Veranda*, *Vogue*, *House and Garden* (UK), *AD Germany* (cover), *AD France* (cover), *AD Italy* (cover), *The Los Angeles Times*, *L.A. Times Magazine*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Architectural Digest USA* (the cover), *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *California Homes*, the recently released book, *The Dealer's Choice*, and many other books, publications and blogs focused on period furnishings, art and design. Rizzoli has just released a stunning monograph of his work, *Past Perfect, Richard Shapiro Houses and Gardens* (March 15, 2016).

ALEXANDRA LOEW



Alexandra's unique body of work and thoughtful approach are informed by an early career as filmmaker, and later as scholar of architecture. She brings a fresh and cinematic eye to each project: her work is characterized by its ability to conjure worlds that cast the spirit of the client in the best and most imaginative light.

She holds a Masters of Architecture (M.Arch) from UCLA, a B.A. with Honors from University of Chicago, and a Certificate of Social Anthropology from The London School of Economics. Her PhD work on Creative Director Barbara D'Arcy during the heyday of the Bloomingdale's department store revealed that interior design is, when at its best, an aperture to another world;

and that cultural and literary figures can be fashioned into its muses. This philosophy is the hallmark of the studio she leads.

She has contributed to several books on design and architecture and has held teaching and lecturing positions at SCI-Arc, Yale, Otis College of Art and Design, and University of Limerick. Prior to establishing her practice in 2003, she worked closely with Pritzker Prize winner Thom Mayne on competitions and writing projects at Morphosis.

ISABELLE SICART



Born in Marseille in 1970, Isabelle Sicart lives and works in Paris. After studying Ceramics at the Graduate school of Applied Arts, she joined the Lalique creation studio in 1991.

After these initial years of experience, Isabelle Sicart then began to design her first collection in 1999, eight years after starting her career at Lalique. This first ceramic collection was for the design firm Les Céramiques. A year later, she created an earthenware collection. Isabelle Sicart designed collections for French furniture-maker Les Migrateurs as well as designing lamps for French pottery maker, the Faïencerie de Lunéville.

Since 2004, she has been producing and modeling her own ceramic objects, unique pieces or in limited series. Her work, which is a mixture of classicism and surrealism, has attracted a number of decorators like Tino Zervudachi. She has also worked with designer Emmanuel Levet-Stenne to design a series of tables with enameled stoneware, the “Polka” pedestal table, the “Sirtaki” console and the “Slepicka” sofa end table.

EMMANUEL LEVET STENNE



Born in 1969, Emmanuel studied design at the ENSCI/Les Ateliers in Paris. After devoting his art to interior design and then being initiated to metal work, he joined Eric Schmitt's team in 2001 and collaborated with him until 2017. Since 2014, he has been designing personal works of art, which he presents at the Carole Decombe gallery. His lamps and light fixtures are very popular. At the same time, he has also created two series of consoles and guéridons in collaboration with the ceramist Isabelle Sicart : Polka, Volta, Sirtaki and Pavane were presented at the Zeugma (2014) and Zeugma 2 (2016) exhibitions.

NICOLAS & SEBASTIEN REESE



Nicolas & Sébastien Reese (Reese Studio) worked, in one case, in the world of fine arts and, in the other, in the film and graphics industry before they united their skills in a decoration studio. Their expertise in the art of classic or contemporary decor is widely recognized by major international architects and decorators (Jacques Grange, Jacques Garcia, Cs Decoration in Paris, Mhz in London, Peter Marino and Couturier in New York...).

E.F. KITCHEN



After graduating from Bennett College in 1969, and following further studies in film at the New York University School of the Arts (Institute of Film and Television) in 1971, I worked in Paris, France, as a still photographer for O.E.T. Productions, a non-profit American theater/dance/film company. I was the set photographer on a French film, "Muzzers," and cinematographer and assistant editor on another film, "Stuck." Then I began my own film production company, Luc & Lisa, Inc., and produced a feature-length film called

"Dream Center." I then moved to Los Angeles and worked as an associate producer for Ed Pressman Productions on the film "Teen Angel."

During the early eighties I refocused my career on fine art photography, specializing in the art of platinum/palladium printing. My first group exhibition was in Paris in 1984, and my first solo exhibition was in 1985 at the Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies. Over the years I have had fourteen more solo exhibitions at sites around the United States. My work has been included in fiftythree group exhibitions internationally, including at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; the Meadows Museum of Art, Shreveport, Louisiana; the Museum of the Southwest, Midland, Texas; the Accademia di Belle Art, Genoa, Italy; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

My work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the George Eastman House in Rochester, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, among others. It is also in numerous private and corporate collections, including the Elton John Collection and the Polaroid Collection.

Further, my photography has been published in *The Greatest Album Covers That Never Were* by Michael Ochs and Craig Butler (2003), *Adam: The Male Figure in Art* by Edward Lucie-Smith (1998), and *Flora Photographica: Masterpieces of Flower Photography from 1835 to the Present* by William A. Ewing (1991). My work appeared in exhibitions based on the latter book at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the New York Public Library, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

In 2011, International Photography Awards awarded my project *Suburban Knights: A Return to the Middle Ages* first place in the category Fine Art, Portrait. *Suburban Knights* is a collection of large-format black-and-white photographs of and interviews with present-day men and women who reenact medieval warfare. The project was published in book form by powerHouse Books in 2010. The book was reviewed in publications including the *New Yorker* and the *Los Angeles Times*, and an excerpt was published in *Harper's* (October 2012). *Suburban Knights* was also shown as a solo exhibition at the Central California Museum of Art; Louis Stern Fine Art; powerHouse Arena; and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin.