



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JILL LEVINE | NOW

November 14 - December 29, 2019

Opening Reception Thursday, November 14, 2019, 6-8PM

HIGH NOON is pleased to present a new body of sculptures and tablets by native New York artist **Jill Levine** in her second exhibition with the gallery, entitled **NOW**. Levine's current work carries with it the immediacy of bringing various art historical influences to a present context, with various subtle political undertones. While in the past borrowing directly from sources such as Indian iconography, Pre-Columbian codexes, or Mexican cylindrical seals that often contrasted the sculptural contours, Levine has in recent years allowed her rolodex of influences to organically develop its own vocabulary of mark-making--- in both the context of the artist's hand as well as the shapes and lines that now envelop the animal-like forms, serving to energize rather than obscure the shapes.

Black bands of generally consistent width create a skeletal-like warpaint highlighting existing nuances within the structure and creating new ones. The negative spaces are punctuated by a carefully chosen color palette that seem to imbue the work with a biological narrative, placing each work within hypothetical environments ranging from icy wonderlands to radioactive deserts. Created of styrofoam, plaster-dipped gauze, and modeling compound, Levine's recent sculptures have taken on distinctive personalities as totemic figures. The sculptural work is accompanied by tablets created of the same material--- slab-like objects of organic, hand-worked surfaces that bear diagrams and icons referencing the figure in various postures, perhaps a ceremonial arrangement or Paleolithic restroom sign.

Formally, the curves and crannies of the sculpture, which reveal their complexity as one moves around them, starkly contrasts the instantaneous graphic nature of the tablets. Taken together, they seem to imply a prehistoric narrative, as if the tablets stand as records of the sculpture's existence, the patterns captured and played across a flat, stone-like surface. **NOW's** curious fiction is a playful non-linear account of cultural intersections and histories both real and invented, brought into focus through Levine's wildly inventive application of influences and masterful rendering of her craft.

Jill Levine received her BA from Queens College and her MFA from Yale, including a semester at the Royal College of Art in London. She is the recipient of both a Guggenheim and NYFA Fellowship, and her work is included in prominent collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Dorothy and Herbert Voel collection at the National Gallery of Art in D.C., and Art in Embassies collection in Mumbai.

Please join us for the opening reception Thursday, November 14th from 6-8PM. Refreshments will be served, and a full-color, limited edition catalog of the exhibition will be published and available for purchase with an essay by **David Humphrey**. For any additional information about the exhibition or **HIGH NOON's** programming, please contact Jared Linge at jared@highnoongallery.com, or call 760.519.1956.