

Choke

An installation by **Scott Carter**

Curated by **Kate Pollasch**

Exhibition Dates: **March 19 - April 23, 2017**

Opening Reception: Sunday, March 19, 2017, from 2 - 5 pm



Scott Carter, *Untitled*, 2016, Vitreous china and glaze.

Terrain Exhibitions and the **Chicago Artists Coalition** are pleased to present *Choke*, an installation by artist **Scott Carter**. *Choke* is the second exhibition of the inaugural year of the Terrain-HATCH Public Art Residency and is curated by **Kate Pollasch**.

Practice. Perfect. Audition. Rehearse. Setup.... Choke.

Choke is a continuation of Carter's ongoing interest in the aesthetics of music and performance. The installation title contains two meanings: the inability to perform when necessary or "to choke," and the term used when silencing a cymbal. In this installation, Carter re-materializes a complete drum set into a hardened, dense, concrete object that calls on both industry and the monumentality of ancient stone sculptures within art history. During the duration of the exhibition, the public may engage with the sculpture, stepping into the role of performer, to strike, drum, and kick an object that resists its normative musical operation. With a playful undertone, Carter inverts the potential of a well crafted instrument by creating a concrete object that is set to choke. But in this subversion, performing and listening to the object becomes an experience removed from the success/failure binary and alternatively offers time and sensory engagement that embraces experimentation, unpredictability, and new musical materiality.

Scott Carter's practice is influenced by the experience of living amongst mass-produced materials, spaces, and objects that are inherent in contemporary architecture and design. His work manifests immersive installations and interactive objects that facilitate subtle shifts in value and attempt to redefine utility in relation to everyday experiences.

Project Statement

This installation is open concurrently as the artist's solo exhibition, *Velocity* at Linda Warren Projects, 327 N. Aberdeen, Ste. 151. Chicago, IL 60607; open from February 18 - April 15, 2017. *Velocity* features a new body of work produced during a three-month Arts/Industry residency at the Kohler Company in Kohler, Wisconsin.

Curatorial Statement

Curating in a public setting, in the front outdoor space of a domestic home, with a rich legacy of community engagement offers a distinct set of curatorial considerations for a project like this. Standing in the Terrain space, the macro layers of community building is felt on a micro level; across the yard is Sabina Ott's intimate home, across the street is a grade-school, other family homes line the road, public transit passes nearby and is also a reminder of the stark differences of infrastructure between Oak Park and other Chicago neighborhoods. Engaging with all of these contexts in a public space is undeniably intimate and also powerfully communal, and I strove to reside in that duality as I considered this curatorial project.

Scott Carter's exhibition mirrors the communal intimacy of the exhibition space. His re-materialized drum set invites each passerby to walk into the exhibition space, take center stage, and, for a moment, be the lead performer. Of course, before one even begins to play, the sculptural object signals its likely "failure" to emote in a normative sense. Yet in this inevitable "choke," each performance becomes unbound from expectations and each performer is freed from a spectrum of "skilled to "amateur." With this musical inversion, Carter equalizes all who step on the public stage, re-harmonizing individual performer as community member. Carter's work creates time: time to play, time to listen, and time to be present on a communal stage free of the fears and expectations of performing. If the sculpture is already choking for you, there is nothing left to do but to play.

--Kate Pollasch

About the Artist

Scott Carter (b. 1984, United States) is a Chicago based artist. Carter received his MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011 where he was the first recipient of the Eldon Danhausen Fellowship for Sculpture. He has attended funded residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont and the Ox Bow School of Art in Saugatuck, Michigan. He is a recipient of the Efroymson Contemporary Arts Fellowship for Midwestern artists (2013) and a first place recipient of the Beers Contemporary Emerging Artist Award in Sculpture (2013). Selected solo shows include include Force Majeure, Linda Warren Projects, Chicago, IL (2012); Disonar, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL (2013); The Shape of Things, Beers Contemporary, London (2014) and The Nature of Being, Pinnacle Gallery, Savannah, GA (2015). Recent group exhibitions include a site-specific installation for In Situ and Linda Warren Projects at Expo Chicago (2014), Building Stories, Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI (2014) and I am What I am Doing, La Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, MO (2014). In addition, Carter was a visiting artist as part of DeFINE Art 2015 at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA and recently completed a three-month residency as part of the Kohler Arts/Industry program in Kohler, Wisconsin.

About the Curator

As a curator, art historian, and writer, **Kate Pollasch's** practice interrogates pre-existing notions of history and normativity through queer tactics, network theory, archival and affect studies. In 2012, she curated the exhibition "Roger Brown: This Boy's Own Story" of Chicago Imagist artist Roger Brown, which unearthed previously censored artworks and archival materials from Brown's career and resulted in Brown's induction into the Visual AIDS Artist Registry. Pollasch holds a MA in Modern art History and Theory and an MA in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has held positions with The American Visionary Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Roger Brown House Museum, Sullivan Galleries, and Rhona Hoffman Gallery. She has lectured at The Chicago History Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, and The University of Chicago. Kate Pollasch was a 2015-2016 HATCH Projects Curatorial Resident with the Chicago Artists Coalition.

About Terrain-HATCH Public Art Residency

The **Terrain-HATCH Public Art Residency** is a joint partnership between **Terrain Exhibitions** and the **Chicago Artists Coalition's HATCH Projects**. Formed by their shared dedication to showing inventive work and fostering experimentation and creativity, this public art residency allows HATCH Projects graduates the opportunity to curate four exhibitions at Terrain. Shows run for a period of 5 weeks, between February and July, 2017, and are accessible and visible 24 hours a day. **All exhibitions take place in the front yard of Terrain Exhibitions, located at 704 Highland Avenue in Oak Park, IL.** *Adults only please for the reception.*