

PRESS RELEASE

Monique Mouton and Nancy Lupo
Jointly presented by Bridget Donahue and Jan Kaps
Focus
Frieze Viewing Room 2020
May 6 - 15, 2020

For the Focus section of Frieze New York 2020, Bridget Donahue and Jan Kaps present a joint booth featuring the paintings of Monique Mouton and the sculptures as well as a video of Nancy Lupo. For this joint presentation for Frieze, Mouton and Lupo form a dialogue on mutability and plays on scale.

Monique Mouton produces her works in watercolor, pastel, and other materials. Her compositions build slowly and seep into her hand-cut surfaces of paper or wood. Both resolute and open-ended, the abstract nature of her paintings is marked by vaguely geometric shapes and sensitively-layered color. Rather than resolving into clear images, the accumulations of marks are subtle and ever-in-motion, exploring relationships between decisions, chroma, texture, or perspective. The well-handled edges of the large paper evoke the ephemeral while the imposing scale creates a tension between the visible and the felt. These oscillations elicit a spacious attention that subverts quick consumption.

Nancy Lupo presents an ongoing index of benches in which she replicates, in reduced scale, examples of existing benches or quasi architectures in civic or commercial space. The benches are examples of the intertwining effort and effect of civic care and civic cruelty. As sites, park benches also inevitably entangle layers of subjective and intimate situations of place, time and memory. This series has unfolded with one sculpture per year since 2015 and addresses Lupo's own experience as well as pictures of place and time as they are subtly distorted by scale and affect. Open Mouth Digest, 2020 is a new video that unfolds aspects of this project with footage from her archive running parallel to a conversation between Lupo and her studio assistant, friend and former student Camille Clair, a week or so before installing her sculpture Open Mouth at the MCA San Diego and following its stint in Pershing Square in the fall of 2019.