

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 31, 2020

Respite and Renewal: Inside and Out
Online Exclusive Curated by James Isherwood

March 31 – April 28, 2020

Participating Artists:

Angela A'Court, Seongmin Ahn, Caroline Blum, Heather Boose Weiss, Karin Bruckner, Charles Buckley, Rachel Burgess, Michael Eade, Carole Eisner, Lisa Fellerson, Amber George, Allison Green, Charlotta María Hauksdóttir, Francie Hester, Jessica M. Kaufman, Rachele Krieger, Emily LaCour, Chase Langford, Kim Luttrell, Danielle Manthey, Emily Miraglia, Carolyn Monastra, Nazanin Noroozi, Leah Oates, Kathy Osborn, Maria Passarotti, Lisa Pressman, Alicia Rothman, Ruth Shively, Liz Rundorff Smith and Fumiko Toda

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, galleries, museums and other arts institutions have closed indefinitely. Our last day in the gallery was on Friday, March 13. Art dealers the world over have been compelled to reflect on what it means to be a gallery without walls or visitors. Over the past years while most galleries have grown their online presence--joining digital sales platforms and doing an increasing amount of business and marketing through the web and social media--this abrupt shutdown of physical spaces is unprecedented. It has been heartening to see how galleries have swiftly adapted to the new normal, creating engaging online content to reach current and perhaps new audiences.

James Isherwood, a long-time SEFA artist, quickly galvanized, asking us if we'd be amenable to hosting an online exhibition. We jumped at the opportunity, admiring his energy, optimism and creative ideas to curate a show, and so came about "Respite and Renewal: Inside and Out," featuring works by 31 of Isherwood's peers. The online exhibition opened on March 31 and is available for viewing on the gallery website [here](#) and through our partner artsy.net [here](#).

The artists—painters, printmakers and photographers—are all SEFA represented artists or artists who have exhibited with the gallery in the past few years. The concept mirrors the new experiences and lifestyles we have all been thrust into as we self-quarantine in our homes and social distance when outside. "The home heeds our call for respite and renewal," Isherwood says. Staying home will keep its inhabitants safe, help flatten the curve and perhaps save the lives of many others.

CURATOR STATEMENT

Our homes are rural, suburban and urban. Time spent in and around them present our daily life patterns while containing greater meaning we often forget. They are places to rest, share and create. We convene with family and friends marking celebrations and engaging our minds. Within these dwellings reliable escape hatches from the world exist in quiet rooms, garages and backyards. The home heeds our call for respite and renewal.

The artworks comprising this exhibition reflect the many desires, feelings and activities in the places we live, both shared and in solitude. They bridge the familiar and ephemeral, reminding us of our reliance on the places we inhabit every day.