



PRESS RELEASE

Neal Vandenberg
Vivarium Glass

October 13 - November 11, 2023
Opening Reception: Friday, October 13, 6-8pm

Silke Lindner is pleased to announce *Vivarium Glass*, the gallery's first solo exhibition with Chicago-based artist Neal Vandenberg. In large scale richly rendered drawings Neal Vandenberg creates eerie spaces that emerge from a headspace deeply sunken, like a snapshot of the mind. Inhabited by snakes, contorted masks of past presidents and disembodied hands and eyes in glowing orbs, its characters seem fleeting like the states they hover in.

Drawing from the phenomenal and material world that surrounds him, Vandenberg channels social and psychological experience in mysterious, often menacing scenes: in conjuring gestures human eyes seductively glance at the viewer from underneath a reptile's skin, a sinister laugh floats below the head of a sizzling snake while fingers reach through the holes of eyes and mouth of a convoluted mask.

Visually informed by pulp illustrations of fantasy and sci-fi magazines, magic realism, and individual positions of art history, his phantasmagoric spheres pervade the perceptual, social and political. In intensely rich and luminescent colors, hallucination and memory blend into a mashup of sensory impressions. What lingers are the ghosts of past and present, their traces haunting and enthralling - much like a snake that sheds its skin.

Neal Vandenberg (b.1986 in Harvey, IL) lives and works in Chicago, IL. He received his MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012. He has had solo - and two person exhibitions at Mickey, Chicago (2022), Apparatus Projects, Chicago (2020) Western Pole, Chicago (2020) and has been included in group exhibitions at Mickey, Chicago, (2023), Hasbrook Galleries (Madison, IL), Apparatus Projects, and Massimo De Carlo (2020) among others.

For more information, please contact Silke Lindner at silke@silkelindner.com