

An abstract artwork featuring a large, stylized, organic shape in shades of yellow, orange, and black, set against a red background. The shape has a jagged, torn-edge appearance. The word "Henry" is written vertically in white serif font on the right side of the artwork.

Henry

# MATH BASS

*a picture stuck  
in the mirror*

OCT 16 2021 – MAR 6 2022

For this commissioned presentation, Los Angeles-based artist Math Bass (b. 1981, New York, NY) creates a site-specific installation featuring a series of recent oil paintings (a new medium for the artist), a kinetic wall work, sculpture, and large-scale wall applications. Since their initial work as a performance and video artist, the tracking of the body's motion through the world has become central to Bass's painting and sculptural practice. Within this exhibition, the intersection of dramatically varied scale throughout the installation figures critically as well. Drawing attention to a spectator's progress and their relationship to each

object and its location in the space, Bass brings forth the ideas of being shepherded by, barred from, projecting through, and resisting space.

Bass has referred to their work as "props," foregrounding the performative interplay among art, artist, and viewer inherent to their installations. During their site visit, Bass responded to the theatrical potential and multiple perspectives of the East Gallery. These characteristics particularly shaped the kinetic sculpture, which suggests continual presence of moving bodies behind a curtain without ever revealing them, a preparation for

performative presence endlessly held in suspense. To formally open the exhibition, the artist activated the installation with a performance that highlighted the relationship of the seen and unseen in the work, and in a sense,

transferred the action of the live body to that of the hidden “figure” in the wall work. In addition to the in-gallery components, the project extends to the Henry’s exterior, occupying the external wall of the museum with an expansive mural “painting” in vinyl.

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*Math Bass: a picture stuck in the mirror* is held in conjunction with the Feminist Art Coalition, a nationwide initiative of art projects that seek to generate cultural awareness of feminist thought, experience, and action.



**All artworks: Math Bass, born 1981, New York, NY.**

*Brick wall*, 2021

Oil on linen

52 × 60 × 1 1/4 in. (132.1 × 152.4 × 3.2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

*Camel skeleton*, 2021

Oil on linen

52 × 60 × 1 1/4 in. (132.1 × 152.4 × 3.2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

*Flowers*, 2021

Oil on linen

52 × 60 × 1 1/4 in. (132.1 × 152.4 × 3.2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

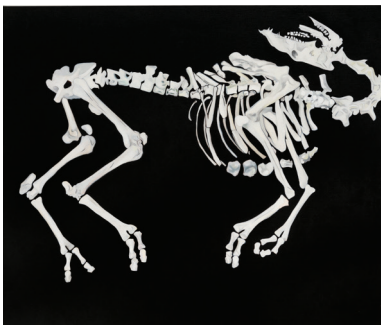
*gate*, 2021

Adhesive vinyl

Two pieces: 282 × 276 in. (716.3 × 701 cm) each

Courtesy of the artist

Math Bass earned their BA from Hampshire College and MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. They have exhibited nationally and internationally at the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Jewish Museum, New York; MoMA PS1, New York; and Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China. Their work is included in the permanent collections of Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; and Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China.



*horizontal meeting*, 2021

Vinyl

65 × 517 in. (165.1 × 1313.2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist

*Legs*, 2020

Oil on linen

52 × 50 × 1 1/4 in. (132.08 × 127 × 3.18 cm)

Collection of Frank Masi & Donna Kolb, Los Angeles

*Snake skin ring*, 2020

Oil on linen

52 × 60 × 1 1/4 in. (132.08 × 152.4 × 3.18 cm)

Collection of Ms. Beth Rudin DeWoody, New York

*wall fragment*, 2021

Site-specific mixed media installation

43 × 9 1/2 × 268 1/2 in. (109.2 × 24.1 × 682 cm)

Courtesy of the artist