

GEARY

NADA HOUSE

ABOVE THE FRUITED PLAIN (AMERICA! AMERICA!)

JOHANNAH HERR

COLONEL'S ROW
GOVERNORS ISLAND
ROOM S17, HOUSE 405B,

OPENING
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 11AM - 5:30PM

OPEN HOURS
FRIDAY - SUNDAY, 11AM - 5PM MAY
8 - AUGUST 1, 2021

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Geary is pleased to present *Above the Fruited Plain (America! America!)*, a solo presentation of works by Johannah Herr.

War Rug X (Banana Republics/US Intervention in Latin America) a machine-tufted rug, is part of Herr's ongoing *War Rugs From America* series—rugs which use the material and visual narrative strategies of Afghan War Rugs to interrogate state-sanctioned violence in America. *War Rug X* applies this rhetoric to the violent legacy of American intervention—corporate and military—in Central America and the Caribbean. It is loosely crumpled in the corner of the room, beginning to climb the wall that has been adorned with bananas and dictators. The vinyl wallpaper, designed by Herr, is a subversive maximalist wallpaper which combines graphic patterning with images of 32 violent right-wing dictators in Central America/ the Caribbean backed by the US (1899-1990). Bananas share the wallspace, a nod to the industry of The United Fruit Company (now Chiquita Brands International).

This builds on the story that Herr's single work on paper, *The Chemical Composition Of a Coup* illustrates, subverting a diagram from a 1950's Chiquita Banana recipe book detailing the chemical composition of a fully-ripe banana—to examine the US government involvement in the 1954 Guatemalan Coup (where the CIA, in collaboration with United Fruit Co., successfully orchestrated a coup against the democratically elected Arbenz administration). Lastly, the exhibition features the debut of "Banana Republican Recipe Book," a publication created in collaboration with writer Cara Marsh Sheffler. The book subverts the aesthetic of a 1970's Chiquita Banana recipe book in service of detailing the violent history of US intervention and exploitation in Central America. Herr's installation spins an all too familiar tale of state-sanctioned violence and colonialism bolstered by United States intervention and corporate interest.

Johannah Herr holds an MFA in Sculpture from Cranbrook Academy of Art (2016) and a BFA in Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design (2009). She has had solo shows at Geary, BRIC, Elijah Wheat Showroom and Envoy Enterprises (all New York City), Red Ger Gallery (Ulaabaatar, Mongolia) and Galeri Metropol (Tallinn, Estonia) and been featured in group shows at Pioneer Works (Brooklyn, NY), Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (Summit, NJ), Center for Contemporary Art (Warsaw, Poland) and DADApost (Berlin). She is a Fulbright Scholar (Mongolia) and has attended residencies at SIM (Reykjavik, Iceland), Wassaic Project (Wassaic, NY), IEA's Experimental Projects Residency (Alfred, NY), Oxbow Artists Residency (Saugatuk, MI), and Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY). She also has upcoming residencies to Vermont Studio Center and the Arctic Circle Residency. Herr currently teaches at Parsons School of Design as well as New York University and is additionally the Co-Founder of Daughters Rising, an anti-human trafficking, indigenous women's empowerment NGO based in Mae Wang, Thailand. She lives and works between Brooklyn and Mae Wang.