

PETER BLUM GALLERY

Nicholas Galanin
Carry a Song / Disrupt an Anthem

January 24 – March 28, 2020

Opening reception with the artist: Friday, January 24, 6 - 8pm



Nicholas Galanin, *White Noise, American Prayer Rug*, 2020, wool and cotton, 60 x 96 inches

Peter Blum Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of work by visual artist **Nicholas Galanin** entitled, *Carry a Song / Disrupt an Anthem* at 176 Grand Street, New York. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in New York and it follows his acclaimed participation in the 2019 Whitney Biennial. There will be an opening reception on Friday, January 24 from 6 to 8 pm and the show runs through March 28, 2020.

Nicholas Galanin works from his experience as a Tlingit and Unangax̂ artist, simultaneously exploring his Indigenous identity and contemporary art practice. With a keen observation of past and present, Galanin exposes intentionally obscured collective memory and barriers to the acquisition of knowledge while celebrating the resilience and strength of Indigenous people and their culture. As Galanin says, the exhibition's title implies that "to carry the songs of Indigenous people, to carry the songs of the land, is inherently disruptive of the national anthem." Expressing his art through sculpture, installation, photography, video, performance, and textile-based work, Galanin asserts cultural, political, and creative sovereignty for Indigenous people.

In *White Noise, American Prayer Rug*, a version of which was exhibited at the 2019 Whitney Biennial in New York, a woven image of static on a television set offers a critical analysis of American culture. He comments on its relationship with white noise used to drown out unwanted sounds and mask alternative voices. In *The Imaginary Indian (Totem Pole)*, Galanin juxtaposes the form of a carved totem overlaid with Victorian Era floral designs. The installation both confronts viewers with their assumptions about Indigenous art while simultaneously reflecting on the attempted assimilation of the culture by Europeans. Galanin's contemporary practice builds upon an Indigenous artistic continuum and responsibility to the land, thereby contributing urgent criticality and vision through resonant and layered works.

Nicholas Galanin (b. 1979) lives and works with his family in Sitka, Alaska. He earned his BFA at London Guildhall University (2003), his MFA at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand (2007), and he has apprenticed with master carvers and jewelers. Galanin participated in the Venice Biennale (2017) in the Native American Pavilion, in the Whitney Biennial (2019), and the Honolulu Biennial (2019). He has been invited to participate in the Biennale of Sydney (2020). Galanin's work is in permanent collections such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Denver Art Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts, the Princeton University Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Anchorage Museum, the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, among others.

For more information and images, please contact David Blum or Kyle Harris: art@peterblumgallery.com or +1 (212) 244-6055

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday, 11am-6pm