

ROMAN ROAD

PRESS RELEASE DENNIS BUCK **+491522414NAME**

Private View: Friday 15 March 2019, 6 – 9 PM
Exhibition: Saturday 16 March – Sunday 28 April 2019

Opening Hours:
Wednesday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM
Saturday, 12 PM – 5 PM and by appointment

What is in a name? A name is often the first thing you learn about someone, but is the value of a name greater than a person's individuality, creativity, personality or identity? What does a name really tell you? Is a name on a canvas someone?

Today, identity is increasingly becoming digital. Individuals can create login IDs and passwords to authenticate themselves in the digital world. Patterns of words, numbers or symbols have gradually become a means of differentiating one person from another; human identities reduced to a sequence of letters, digits or codes. On plastic, canvas and other man-made supports, Dennis Buck creates compositions filled with characters, often revealing his name, initials, the title or year of the work. These protruding letters and numbers are a recurring motif in his art, reflecting a constant fixation with artist identity and authenticity, inescapable desiderata in today's art market.

In **+491522414NAME**, Buck's first-ever solo exhibition in London at Roman Road, he presents some of his latest pieces; multilayered plastic works and sun bleached canvases are exhibited alongside a site-specific installation, which incorporates many of his idiosyncratic elements. Buck uses silicone to write on his pieces, pointedly pronouncing the characters from the background and enlivening his works with multi-dimensional textures. Often grouped or in uninterrupted flow, the fonts gesture the underlining subject of his canvases: the artist himself. Through his vibrant artworks he continually practices his signature, leaving a trace of his presence on everything he creates. We also sometimes find the same digits repeated, detailing his private phone number. In case you miss it, he even discloses this in the exhibition title (just use your keypad to decode the phoneword).

+491522414NAME opens on Friday 15 March and will be on display at Roman Road until 28 April 2019.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dennis Buck (b. 1989, Ulm) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. From 2013–2016 he studied fine arts at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin). On completing his studies, Buck was nominated for the "Meisterschüler" program, an honour only awarded to selected students with outstanding artistic achievement. Recent solo exhibition include *All Exclusive*, Limbo, Berlin (2019); *Ein Bucket Flowers*, Luis Leu, Karlsruhe (2017); and *tootausendfifteen*, ung5, Cologne (2016). Buck's work has also been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including *Room Service*, +DEDE, Berlin (2018); *A Joshua Tree is Not a Tree*, JTHAR Ranch, California (2018); and *Provincetown*, MEWO Kunsthalle Memmingen, Bavaria (2018).

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Dennis Buck, *Samuel said*, 2018. Silicone and styrofoam on plastic, 180 x 115 cm, unique. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist. © Paul Niedermayer

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014, the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

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