



# \_\_topia

*Opening Reception: Friday, February 8th, 6-9pm*

**Location** 818 S Spring Street, Los Angeles

James Wright Gallery is proud to announce \_\_topia, a group exhibition of work by artists **Charlie Engelman**, **Samantha Greenfeld**, **Nilay Lawson**, and **Molly Tierney**. The show will be on view February 8—March 8, 2019.

Defining the subjectivity of one's place results in using affixes; a way to enact and hone-in, to indicate further and to be closer to or to control the presentation of.

\_\_topia.

That dash.

That space.

That absence of a prefix; \_\_topia alone leaves a space open for subjectivity.

Breaking the rules of engagement, integration, and presentation, four LA based artists discuss, edit, curate, and write together; asking what they can create when the opportunities and institutions they were told to believe in have ultimately failed. Using form, materiality and imagery to reflect on this subjective liminal space.

Charlie Engelman's sculptures perform a mimesis, presenting an inverse, rather than the original form. These negative casts recontextualize objects of everyday life, separating them from function and imposing new meaning and narratives in their shadow.

Samantha Greenfeld's Midden series shifts within states of fragmentation and wholeness, unifying relics into singular, interconnected bodies. In the same way discarded material allows archaeologists to understand ancient civilizations, the amalgams of memories from found materials transform into portraits of a life, a community, a time, and a place.

Nilay Lawson obliterates with imagery and figuration with Can't Hide What The Sun Can See; a baseball-cap shaped painting depicting horrors of American urbanity on one side, as the other side explodes with flora, camouflaging the entire surface. Lawson has developed a pictorial language of symbols that speaks to current political, cultural, and social tensions.

Molly Tierney uses decomposition and assemblage as her foundation to investigate materials. In Vanguard Sentiment, she combines unearthed canvases with weathered personal print ephemera, and a latex impression from her studio floor, thus converting the value of the surface into time and memory.

**James Wright Gallery** (JWG) has expanded from Founder and Director, James Wright's curiosity for the growing convergence of contemporary art and creative commerce. Since 2014, Wright has dedicated himself to developing an internationally engaged gallery program that seeks to exhibit the very best in emerging talent that walks the line of daring intimacy. Vibrant renditions of society and personal narratives are the driving force of experimental showcases and artist collaborations. A rejuvenating program of young artists promises fresh interpretations of history that will pave the way for the art world to follow.

**For general inquiries:**  
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**Join the conversation by following:**  
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Participating Artists:  
**Nilay Lawson** www.nilaylawson.com  
**Samantha Greenfeld** www.samanthagreenfeld.com  
**Charlie Engelman** www.charlieengelman.com  
**Molly Tierney** www.mollymtierney.com