



Erin M. Riley
The Beginning, 2016
Hand woven wool tapestry on a cotton warp
48" x 72"

18/bi/f/ma

New works by Erin M. Riley
JULY 1 – 26, 2016

Opening Reception:
Friday, July 1, 6-9pm

Brilliant Champions Gallery is pleased to present ***18/bi/f/ma***, a solo exhibition of new works by Erin M. Riley. This collection of new tapestries, being the largest to date (some as large as 8 x 8 feet), captures traumatic moments of turmoil in the artists personal narrative, moments of her youth pre-smart phones, and images referencing a battle with Trichotillomania. A formidable depiction of self portraits and the obsessive documentation of an image saturated life.

In past work, Riley has referenced found images online as well as her own photographs that address sex, social media and feminism. Influenced by the Instagram generation, her subjects have varied from iPhone nude selfies, screenshots of sexual positions and objects of womanhood or sexuality.

While she continues the dialogue regarding stereotypes around women, feminism and sexual freedom, the exhibition ***18/bi/f/ma***, focuses on Riley's own personal memories, the knickknacks and tokens of her youth and loves lost. Among these memories is a self portrait of an explicit moment when the artist was rushing to meet with a 4am hookup that resulted in a gashed thigh from shaving. That incident sparked a recurrent, often obsessive routine of pubic grooming, some of which are depicted in the collection.

The collection offers a visual dialogue that aims to challenge social spheres and stratification. To open that dialogue further, the artist will host pop up events including a panel discussion with leaders in the art industry around topics relating to the artist's work and practices.

Erin M. Riley received her BFA in 2007 from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, MA and her MFA from Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA, in 2009. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Anew*, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco, CA (2015); *Darkness Lies Ahead*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, NY (2105); *Something Precious*, Soze Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2015); and *The Pain Comes in Waves*, OGAARD Gallery, Oakland, CA (2014). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. As well as been an artist in residence at the Museum of Art and Design Artist Studios, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, MacDowell Colony, to name a few.

18/bi/f/ma opens at Brilliant Champions Gallery with a reception on Friday, July 1, 2016 from 6-9pm and is open to the public. The exhibition runs through July 26, 2016 with open hours Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm and by appointment or chance.