LARI PITTMAN ART BASEL UNLIMITED

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6750 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90038 T 1 310 276 5424 F 1 310 276 7430

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Curiosities from a Late Western Impaerium evokes the historical tradition of the Wunderkammer, or cabinet of curiosities, which was a precursor to an early form of museums. These cabinets often showcased artistic, religious, scientific, or anthropological objects with no clear arrangement or organization. Taking on the speculative period of a 'Late-Western Impaerium,' Lari Pittman's grid of drawings contains scenes and objects that, according to the artist, will come to mark the era before the fall of capitalism: genetically engineered food, snow globes with dead architecture, manifestos that have failed, highway signs warning of cannibalism (with suggestions to accelerate), aerial night views of secured districts, needlepoints with antidepressant pills, brain scans with probes, and stained glass windows for underground bunkers. The drawings demonstrate Pittman's dexterity and range; his ability to glean images from across centuries and cultures as Wunderkammern with a distinct bravura.

Lari Pittman (born 1952 in Los Angeles) is one of the most significant painters of his generation. His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions worldwide, including a recent 40-year retrospective, 'Declaration of Independence,' that originated at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Pittman lives and works in Los Angeles.



LARI PITTMAN Curiosities from a Late Western Impaerium 2014 Cel-vinyl and spray enamel on gessoed paper 70 Parts Overall Dimensions: 116 5/8 x 273 1/4 x 1 3/4 inches (296.2 x 694.1 x 4.4 cm) Framed Dimensions, each: 22 1/8 x 18 1/8 x 1 3/4 inches (56.2 x 46 x 4.4 cm)





Stained glass windows for underground bunkers

Highway signs warning of cannibalism (with suggestions to accelerate)





Aerial night views of secured districts

Genetically engineered food



Aerial night views of secured districts

Needlepoints with antidepressant pills





Snow globes with dead architecture

Manifestos that have failed



Installation view from *Lari Pittman: Declaration of Independence* Hammer Museum, Los Angeles September 29, 2019–January 5, 2020



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