

For Release ::: March 24, 2014 Brooklyn, NY

SURFACE SURVEY

a solo exhibition from Clement Valla

April 19

through May 10



An opening reception with the artist will be held on **Saturday, April 19** from **7 – 11 PM** at Transfer.
Gallery hours are held every Saturday from 2 – 7 PM and by appointment with directors@transferyallery.com.

Of the moral effect of the monuments themselves, standing as they do in the depths of a tropical forest, silent and solemn, strange in design, excellent in sculpture, rich in ornament, different from the works of any other people, their uses and purposes and whole history so entirely unknown with hieroglyphics explaining all, but being perfectly unintelligible, I shall not pretend to convey any idea. Often the imagination was pained in gazing at them.

— John Lloyd Stephens, *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan*, 1841

This week, Twitterers around the world received some devastating news: The Twitter account @Horse_ebooks, a cult favorite, was human after all.

— Bianca Bosker, *Twitter Hoax Reveals What We Desire Most From Machines*, *Huffington Post*, Sept. 26, 2013

TRANSFER is pleased to present Clement Valla's first solo exhibition with the gallery. **Surface Survey** is comprised of digital prints and 3D printed sculptures, structured around concepts of archaeology, computer software, meaning-making, and images that are not meant for human consumption.

To explore these themes, Valla collects digital artifacts produced by software that turns photographs into 3D Models. The arranged fragments are left untouched, exhibiting the software's process as-is. The work is comprised of both 2D images meant to be processed by the computer (but never seen by humans) and 3D printed fragments that indicate how the software pieces the shapes together.

Valla's subjects are varied: from sculptural antiquities he photographed in the Metropolitan Museum's collections, to contemporary ephemera, to 19th Century inventions. The work uncovers subtle shapes and textures that illustrate these objects in unexpected ways and cast a new light the algorithms that digitized them.

Valla's work reflects on the human potential of meaning-making in unfamiliar, software-created images. He is interested in the relationship between how what a computer reads is so distant from what a human will understand. This interest extends into the language of computer image-making, suggesting an archaeology of computer software, whose extractions reveal the computer's systematic logic.

A full inventory of work from SURFACE SURVEY is available for acquisition from the gallery. Please inquire with directors@transferyallery.com to request a prospectus.

About the Artist :::

CLEMENT VALLA (b. 1979, Paris) is Brooklyn based artist. His recent collaborative show *Iconoclashes* was exhibited at Mulherin + Pollard Projects in New York, and his work was included in the *Paddles On!* auction at Phillips. His work has also been exhibited at The Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis; Museum of the Moving Image, New York; Thommassen Galleri, Gothenburg; Bitforms Gallery, New York; DAAP Galleries, University of Cincinnati; 319 Scholes, New York; and the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Milwaukee.

His work has been cited in *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME Magazine*, *El Pais*, *Huffington Post*, *Rhizome*, *Domus*, *Wired*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Liberation*, and on BBC television. Valla received a BA in Architecture from Columbia University and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in Digital+Media. He is currently an associate professor of Graphic Design at RISD.

Events + Gallery Hours :::

Opening Reception

Saturday, April 19 from 7 – 11 PM

[\[Info + RSVP\]](#)

Gallery Hours

Saturdays 2 – 7 PM + by appointment; contact directors@transfergallery.com

TRANSFER is an exhibition space that explores the friction between digital practice and its physical instantiation. The gallery supports artists working with computer-based practices to realize aggressive installation projects within our walls.

Transfer Gallery 1030 Metropolitan Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211 Contact: directors@transfergallery.com

More info: <http://transfergallery.com/exhibitions/2014/04/clement-valla>