

Tanya Leighton

'CIRCA SKIPPY'

Brian Belott

11 September – 24 October 2020

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Tanya Leighton is delighted to present the gallery's first exhibition with New York based artist, Brian Belott. The show shares its title, "Circa Skippy", with the largest work in the exhibition: a panoramic, five-panel assemblage that employs rolls of paint-soaked paper towels as kinetic elements. Having previously been used by the artist as ad hoc brushes, these supersaturated scrolls now wave in the breeze contributed by fans embedded in each panel's surface.

Belott's polymathic approach allows his interests and ideas to run to their most absurd conclusions and back again. Poking and prodding at artistic convention, he leaves nothing off the table with regard to inspiration, materials and execution. He looks to children's art with the same reverence as he does Dadaism. Belott has crafted artworks using calculators, TV remotes and old socks; most recently he coaxed cat food and coloured hair gel into frozen compositions that are displayed in windowed freezers commonly found in grocery stores. He sees creative potential in every moment and everything. For years, Belott has even made spontaneous drawings on sketch pads mounted to the tile walls of his shower, while he is showering.

An encyclopedic knowledge of art history, literature, music, comedy, Americana and popular culture feeds Belott's artistic practice, which effortlessly switches between mediums and approaches, and is packed with inherent levity and understated brilliance. This deep-reaching catalogue of inspiration is layered into Belott's works, lending them complexity that belies their superficial zaniness.

'Circa Skippy' focuses on Belott's acclaimed 'Puuuuuuuuffs' series — paintings whose surfaces are stuffed full of thick cotton batting, paint-soaked sponges and amorphous blobs of color. The wonky geometries in Belott's 'Puuuuuuuuffs' are punctuated by knobs, handles and hooks, cheap appliances, as well as tufted bathroom tissues, all picked up from dollar stores. The fans and kitschy electronics that are set into the works surfaces remain switched on throughout the duration of the show, humming and flickering with a performative energy that mirrors the artist's own personality.

Brian Belott (b. 1973) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York. Recent solo exhibitions include Morán Morán, Los Angeles; Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; and LOYAL, Malmö.

Selected group exhibitions include: '2019 Whitney Biennial', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; 'The Artist is Present', curated by Maurizio Cattelan, Yuz Museum, Shanghai; 'Objects Like Us', The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Connecticut. His work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

For more information and images please contact [info@tanyaleighton.com](mailto:info@tanyaleighton.com) or telephone +49 (0)30 21 972 220. The gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm and by appointment.

“In Belott’s case, too much is not nearly enough — he is remarkably well informed about art history and music, which greatly influence his art and improvisational process. What results is a personal mythology lifting him beyond the dreariness of everyday life.”

–Jonathan Goodman  
The Brooklyn Rail



Brian Belott in his studio, 2008  
Photography: Chris Sanders

Brian Belott  
*Today's Soup Is Bread*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic paint,  
matte medium, brushes, handle and violin neck  
132.1x101.6 cm  
52x40 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0006)



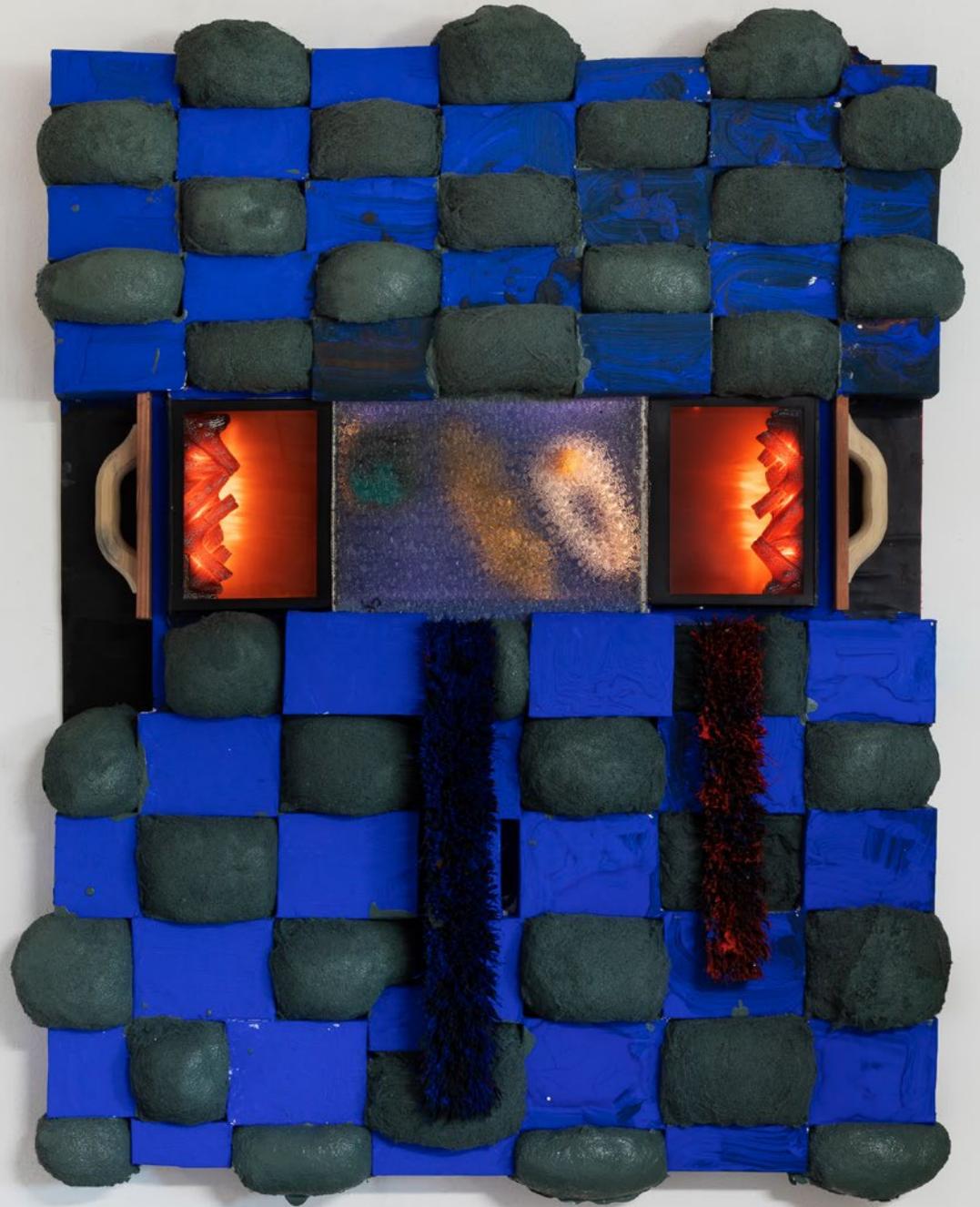
Brian Belott  
*Today's Soup Is Bread*, 2020  
Detail



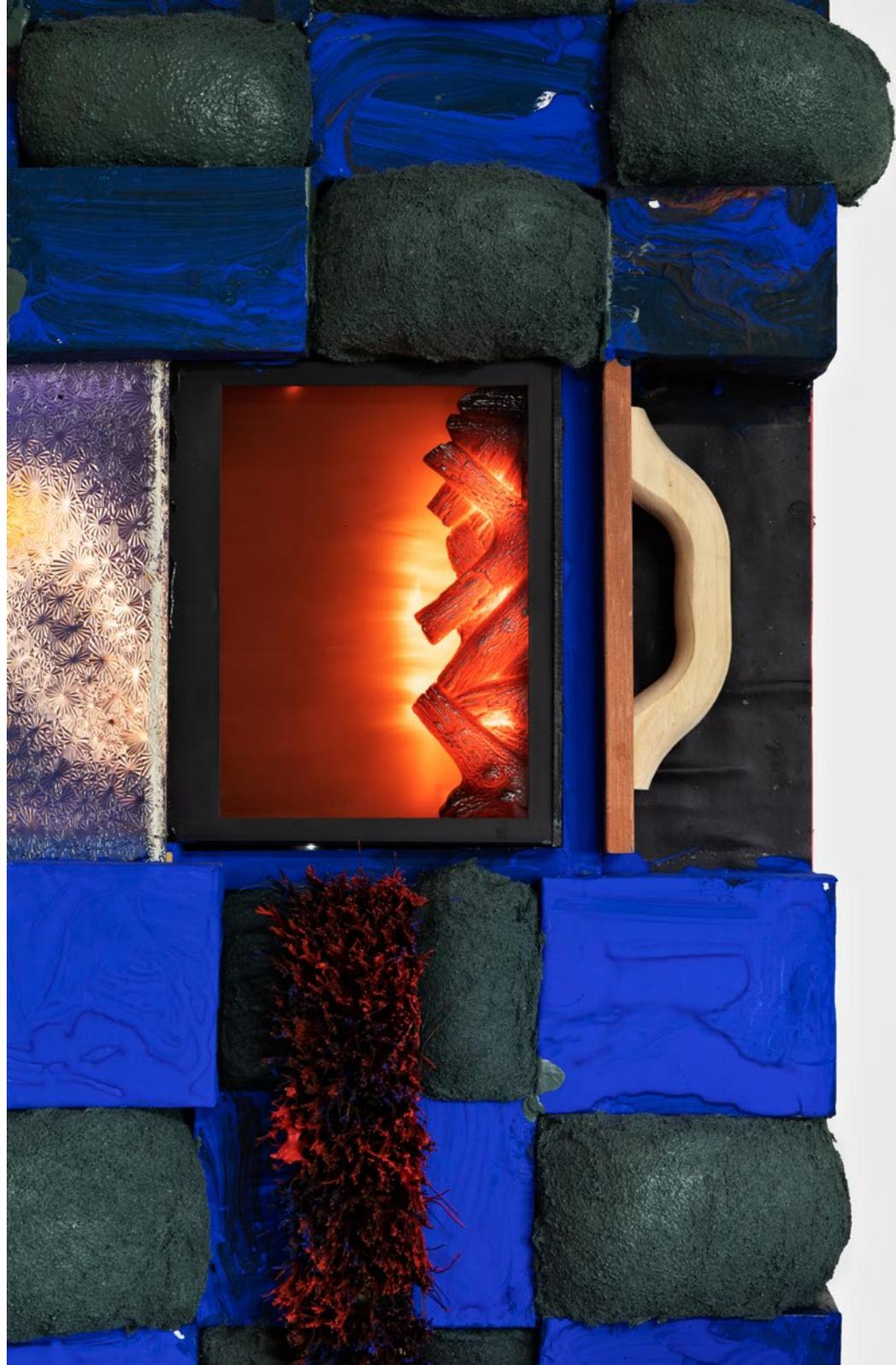


Brian Belott, 'Circa Skippy'  
Installation view, Tanya Leighton, Berlin

Brian Belott  
*Silent Movie*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic paint,  
matte medium, faux fireplaces, brushes and handles  
167.6x121.9 cm  
66x48 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0003)



Brian Belott  
*Silent Movie*, 2020  
Detail





Brian Belott, 'Circa Skippy'  
Installation view, Tanya Leighton, Berlin

Brian Belott  
*Drinkable Imagery*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic paint,  
matte medium, aluminium, tissues and handles  
271.8x45.7 cm  
107x18 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0007)



Brian Belott  
*Drinkable Imagery*, 2020  
Detail





Brian Belott, 'Circa Skippy'  
Installation view, Tanya Leighton, Berlin



Brian Belott  
*Circa Skippy*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic  
paint, matte medium, fans, paper towels  
Five parts, overall:  
127x508 cm  
50x200 in  
Unique  
(BELOTT-2020-0008)

Brian Belott  
*Circa Skippy*, 2020  
Detail

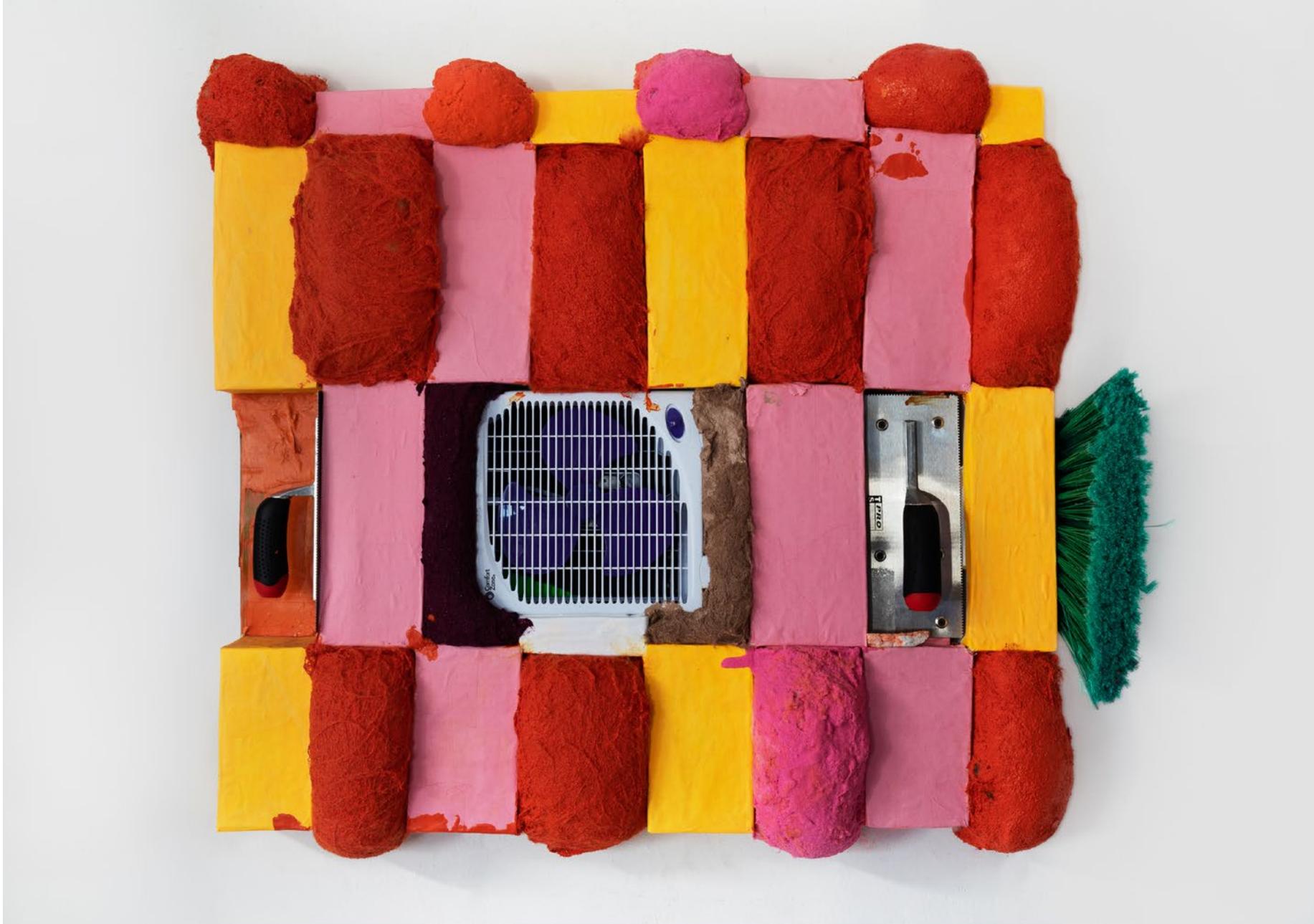


Brian Belott  
*Circa Skippy*, 2020  
Detail





Brian Belott, 'Circa Skippy'  
Installation view, Tanya Leighton, Berlin



Brian Belott  
*America Runs*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic  
paint, matte medium, fan, brush and handles  
91.4x106.7 cm  
36x42 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0004)



Brian Belott  
*America Runs*, 2020  
Detail

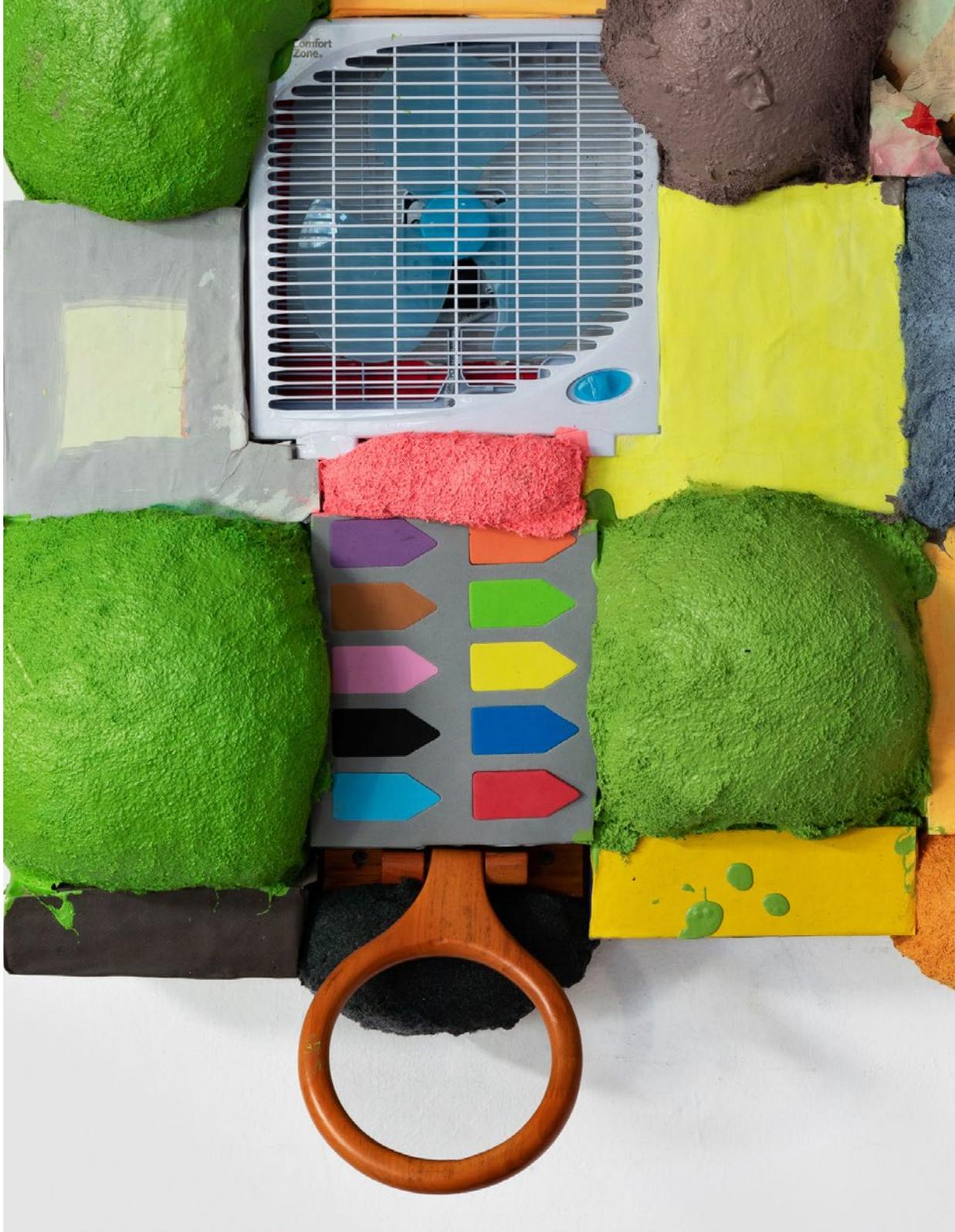


Comfort  
Zone®

Brian Belott  
*America Runs*, 2020  
Detail

Brian Belott  
*Nardo*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper,  
acrylic paint, matte medium, wood, fan  
132.1x94x30 cm  
52x37x12 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0001)





Brian Belott  
*Nardo*, 2020  
Detail

Brian Belott  
*Tondo Painting*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic paint,  
matte medium, and remote control with matte  
medium, coloured sand and stones  
61x61 cm  
24x24 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0002)



Brian Belott  
*Tondo Painting*, 2020  
Detail



Brian Belott  
*To be titled*, 2020  
Cotton batting, colourfast paper, acrylic  
paint, matte medium, aluminium, tissues  
121.9x40.6 cm  
48x16 in  
(BELOTT-2020-0005)



Brian Belott  
*To be titled*, 2020  
Detail



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