

# KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

**LEX BROWN**

**THEY FLEW TO PLANET NOVA**

**JANUARY 15 – MARCH 7, 2020**

**Opening Wednesday, January 15 from 6-8 PM**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The nine colored pencil drawings that comprise Lex Brown's *They Flew to Planet Nova* map a psychogeography of the Northern Virginia suburbs, a region shaped by its technology, national security, and defense companies and the place where Brown grew up. In her works, Brown draws upon Northern Virginia's McMansion mishmash of Neocolonial architectural styles, a grand banality that acts as the neutral face of a seat of international imperial power and one of the world's largest data center markets. In Brown's pictured landscapes, columns and edifices are shown in dramatic perspective. They reveal buildings speaking in blocked letters and supporting poems on their slanted roofs. Presenting a suburban landscape that feels at once contemporary and science fiction, Brown questions where memory—social and cultural, institutional and colonial, corporeal and psychological—might be stored and found. The works in this exhibition consider how the conformity of our built environments, the houses we grow up in and the streets through which we drive, construct our sense of self and embodied experiences.

*Lex Brown is an artist, musician, and writer. A native Californian, raised amongst the box stores and horse farms of Northern Virginia, Brown's work is informed by the omnipresence of data, information, media, and how its images condition our bodies and words. Brown builds new characters, expansive fictional worlds, and unexpected linguistic relationships in order to dismantle internalized racism and sexism within the mind of herself and audience. Fluctuating between humor and seriousness, the work opens up a space for personal connection and examination, often drawing on family history and current, and historical events. Her work plays with the scale of personal and emotional experience in relation to large scale systems of social and economic organization.*

*Brown has performed and exhibited work at the New Museum, the High Line, the International Center of Photography, Recess, and The Kitchen in New York; REDCAT Theater and The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles; The Baltimore Museum of Art in Baltimore; and at the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway. Brown holds degrees from Yale University (MFA) and Princeton University (AB). Consciousness, a survey of Brown's work spanning the past 8 years, is newly available from GenderFail. Her first paperback work in fiction, My Wet Hot Drone Summer, a sci-fi erotic novella that takes on surveillance and social justice, is available online.*