

Flatland Gallery presents

Soft Jaw by Alex Goss

September 7 to October 13, 2018
Opening September 7 | 6pm-9pm
Closing October 12 | 7pm

1709 Westheimer Rd Houston, Texas 77098

In manufacturing, a soft jaw is a workholding method, a clamp used in the fabrication of customized parts. This inverted shape holds the desired part in place during machining. Although these specialized tools are unseen by-products, they are crucial to the production of more functional objects that drive our daily lives. Similarly, in *Soft Jaw*, Alex Goss draws attention to the mysterious, and often discarded residue around things.

The work in *Soft Jaw* explores inhabitable channels within our contemporary landscape dominated by machines. Through the lens of fantasy, Goss imagines tools enchanted by technology. Small creatures carved from hard materials like aluminum and plastic appear softened and stretched, as if reaching out for each other. In the video, a chimeric relationship between a machine and its operator set the stage for an unexpected ecosystem to emerge.

These residues are transmuted as bridges; brewed from otherworldliness, the “living” and the “machine” are bound by a kindred dialect. This project continues Alex Goss’s ongoing conversations with machines to explore the subversive pull we experience from our expanding relationship with, or dependence on, technology.



Alex Goss (b. 1991, Houston, TX) received a BFA from the Cooper Union in New York City. After attending a residency at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Goss returned to Houston to learn from its manufacturing trades in the energy and medical fields. He currently fabricates industrial grade 3D printers and medical devices. Goss has held solo exhibitions in New York, Baltimore, and Houston. Goss is a co-organizer of Moonmist, an artist-run project space in Houston, Texas.

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