

For Immediate Release

April 13 - June 10, 2017

VICTORIA MUNROE
fine art

67 EAST 80TH STREET #2 NEW YORK CITY
Open Wednesday-Saturday 11-5 & by appt

Lee Tribe

The Bathers



Lee Tribe, *Bather 20. New Wave 2. Youth of Two Tides*, 2017,
steel, formed, welded, paint and wax, 13 ¼ x 22 x 5"

Opening April 13 and running through June 10, 2017 Victoria Munroe Fine Art is pleased to present Lee Tribe: *The Bathers*.

Lee Tribe was born in Essex, England in 1945 and learned to weld at age 15, while working as an apprentice boilermaker and plater in ship repair. He attended St. Martin's School of Art, where he studied under Sir Anthony Caro and William Tucker, both of whom offered him work upon graduation. In 1977 Tribe moved to New York City and began showing with Victoria Munroe Fine Art in 1984. His work has won critical acclaim and is in the collection of Storm King Art Center, as well as many other important collections in Japan, Great Britain, and the U.S.

Over four decades Tribe has explored scale and mass in open, lyrical compositions, as well as dense constructivist forms that seem to gather every scrap and chain in their path. There has always been an interest in abstraction, as well as figuration. Given his expertise and facility in the art of welding and forming his material, Tribe has found a new, expressive freedom in the innovative small-scale work presented here. The psychologically-charged physical weight and scale of his previous work has vanished. This new series of abstract figures, *The Bathers*, could be called drawings in steel.

After learning that he needed hand surgery in 2009 due to the overuse of industrial tools, Tribe was forced to lay down his tools after 40 years of intense work. During this period of reflection, he made large, dark drawings in charcoal. When his hand was healed, Tribe returned to his studio to find that it was not his unfinished large-scale

sculptures that attracted him, but rather the smaller shapes of miscellaneous steel lying on the studio floor. As he began to tack these “found” pieces together, he unlocked a joy in creating reductive, jolly figures at play.

Inspired by childhood games and memories of playing on the banks of the Thames, as well as by Picasso's painting, *The Bathers* (1918), Tribe re-created and sculpted memories out of thin steel lines dancing through the air. By folding, curling, and twisting the ribbons of steel-and adding bands of painted color-each tableau springs to life composed of ocean waves, fish fins, buoys, beach balls, and sails. They are breathtakingly light and joyous.

Thrilled to be making sculpture again after a two-year hiatus, Tribe is ever mindful of line and the space it captures, in the rich sculpture tradition of Julio Gonzalez and David Smith.



Lee Tribe, *Bather 18. Pablo P, Play Minotaur*, 2016, steel, formed, welded, paint and wax, 15 x 26 x 9"

For further information and reproduction-quality images, please contact Margo Hudson
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