

Ross + Kramer is pleased to present Ryan Schneider's debut solo exhibition with the gallery in our East Hampton location, titled *Specter of an Ancestor*. The exhibition will consist of a presentation of several new sculptures.

The works included in *Specter of an Ancestor* are made of burnt Torrey pines. Torrey pine is a rare species of tree that grows only in California, not far from Schneider's home of Joshua Tree. Torrey pines seen in this area are on average around 150 years old, making their branches and trunks an especially meaningful material for a body of work concerned with ghosts, or specters, of those who came before; most Torrey pines have been around long before any person living now was born. These trees, in part because of their age, and in part their rarity, are irrevocably linked to the otherworldly feeling of the landscape from which they grow. When speaking on the desert landscapes of California to *Curate Joshua Tree* in 2017, Schneider clarified, "There is a spiritual hum here that I've never felt anywhere else. I think that in this area in particular, the veil to the other realms of consciousness is very thin, you can sort of see the other side on a daily basis."

While recalling Cubist visual archetypes set by artists like Pablo Picasso, as well as the sub-Saharan African masks Picasso was influenced by, Schneider's sculptures simultaneously speak to a uniquely intuitive process that is guided by the aforementioned "spiritual hum". Schneider begins each sculpture with a chainsaw, removing pieces of wood with rough slashes only to follow up with further brutalization in the form of burning the surface of the pine. The next steps of sanding and oiling followed a gentler, yet still instinctual, guiding from the wood and the desert from which it comes. Finally, Schneider uses oil paint sticks in near-fluorescent colors to reveal a series of colorful planes forming a face that feels part fever-dream and part totem.

Ryan Schneider was born in Indianapolis, IN and holds a BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art. His work is held in public and private collections worldwide, including the Hall Art Foundation and the Bank of America Collection. After many years in New York City, Schneider now lives and works in Joshua Tree, California.

The gallery is located at 66 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, New York and is open from Thursday through Sunday, 11 - 6 PM. *Specter of an Ancestor* will run beginning April 17, 2021. For more information, please contact info@rkgallery.com or call +1 (917) 675 7293.