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Respirator masks (Custom Prototypes), Toronto, 2015

On The Surface | Susana Reisman

MAY 7-JUNE 12, 2016 — RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST SATURDAY, MAY 7th FROM 6-9 PM

TPOLOGY is pleased to present **On The Surface | Susana Reisman**, featuring the artist's latest findings from her multi-year investigation into the nature of wood. Encompassing aspects of both drawing and painting even as it foregrounds relationships between sculpture and photography, the exhibition includes a selection of large-scale colour photographs and several freestanding wood sculptures.

In her surprisingly painterly photographs of industrial wood finishing rooms, Reisman makes visible, through the material's apparent absence, the many layers, and intensive labour, that must be applied to re-surface wood products for commercial purposes. Conversely, her exquisitely tactile sculptures, left in various states of fabrication and finish, evince the vivid and varied marks of her experimental method of "drawing" into their surfaces with a table saw. Where the photographs speak to processes of surfacing in wood's absence, the wood sculptures make present a new awareness of surface by virtue of the tangible marks made upon them, a visible index of the artist's manual explorations on wood to varying depths and degrees.

As a meditation on both formal and conceptual interfaces between wood's multiple planes, **On The Surface** is a visual delight which belies the artist's deeper concern and ambivalence toward humanity's desire for perfection as expressed in our fraught relationship with the natural world. The exhibition will be accompanied by a new catalogue featuring an original curatorial essay and full documentation of the show.

On The Surface is a Featured Exhibition of the 2016 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

Susana Reisman (b. 1977) was born in Caracas, Venezuela and lives and works in Toronto. She received a BA in Economics from Wellesley College, Boston (1999) and an MFA in photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology (2005). After teaching photography for a number of years, Reisman now dedicates her time to making art and running Circuit Gallery.

Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Productive Displacement*, a series of billboards curated by Bonnie Rubenstein for the 2015 CONTACT Photography Festival; *Standardizing Nature: Trees, Wood, Lumber* (2014) at Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, Toronto; *Unsettled Primaries* (2014), curated by Mariangeles Soto-Diaz for the Torrance Art Museum, California; *Immoderation* (2014), curated by Megan Press for the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga; *Micah Lexier: More Than Two* (2013), curated by Micah Lexier for The Power Plant, Toronto; Flash Forward Festival 2013, outdoor exhibition at Fairmont Battery Wharf, Boston; *Objects in Mirrors May Appear Closer* (2013), UNO St. Claude Gallery, New Orleans; and *Like-Minded* (2012), curated by Micah Lexier for the Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The artist wishes to acknowledge the support of the Ontario Arts Council for this exhibition.

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