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## Douglas Rieger: Character Armor

September 2 - October 22, 2016



Richmond, VA - **1708 Gallery** is excited to present *Character Armor*, a solo exhibition by Douglas Rieger.

Supposing an immobile object had a personality, it might be visible in the tensions and gestures inherent in the form itself, as in a human body with a stiff neck or stooped shoulders. Sculptor Douglas Rieger believes this to be true of objects, including the utilitarian ones we use everyday without much notice. Rieger sees a latent desire, or restrained expression, of personality traits in such forms as doorknobs, faucets, electrical conduits and sign posts. He explores this sublimated potential in the sculptures he creates, working

curiously with the tension at play between the mechanical and the biological, both in his choice of materials—be it wood and epoxy, or leather and fiberglass—and in the forms themselves which blend industrial with biomorphic components.

There is no denying the anthropomorphic nature of the forms Rieger creates, full of human-like eroticism and a navigation of gravity from an upright stance. “My objects are abstracted figurative works. Anthropomorphic intimate wooden forms swollen and hollow with exposed flaccid plumbing

and interruptions relating to the body (belts, socks, cups, rings). I enjoy bawdy humor to attract the viewer inside and around the sculptures. They are languidly aggressive and perverse, revealing their peculiar primitive nature openly.”

Rieger received an MFA in sculpture from Yale University and a BFA in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University.

An opening reception will take place Friday, September 2, 5-9pm during RVA First Fridays.

*Image credits: Douglas Rieger, detail “System of Utility System of Desire,” fiberglass, Roll-a-tex, spray paint, belts, Safway Systems Scaffold, dimensions variable; detail “James,” wood, Enamel, Silicone, Belt, Epoxy. 36x28x84 inches.*

1708 Gallery’s 2016-2017 exhibition season is generously supported in part by Ashley Kistler, Bill and Pam Royall, Page Bond, Marcia and Harry Thalheimer, Caroline and Richard Wright, Jay Barrows, John Freeman, Suzanne Hall, Michael Schewel and Pricilla Burbank Schewel, Andy and Jill Stefanovich, Hank & Natalie Greenberg, Katie and Danny MacNelly, Lucy Meade, Joe and Suzanne Seipel, Craig and Donna Suro, Julie and Paul Weissend, Jana Blue, Deborah Boschen, Molly Dodge, Sarah & Josh Eckhardt, Mary Fleming, John and Sasha Waters Freyer, Andrea Levine, Ted and Katie Ukrop, The Warhol Foundation for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

