Molting
Ceaphas Stubbs

Molting relates the psyche to free will by means of non corporeal identification. The show displays artists’ self portraits through representation of the ephemeral, the immaterial, and the objective. These representations are a process of association; i.e. through housing, environment, culture, subculture, relationships, and their various manifestations. A choice is an act of free will, consciously or subconsciously, and carry an imprint of the will. The paradox of free will and the psyche, a universal object originating before the human individual, creates non corporeal phenomena through which the artists may convey themselves. Molting is exposing the responsibility for change in our world.
Using the language of still life photography, Ceaphas Stubbs explores the relationships between accessibility and inaccessibility, as well as pleasure and nostalgia. The found objects and images, which are erotic, abstract cut-outs of the body, are symbols for personal and collective narratives. Stubbs's process starts out as studio-based collage sculptures and installations made from materials such as chemically stained photographs, fabrics, printouts, magazines, wires, yarn, found objects, and wood planks, which are then photographed and dismantled. Their ordinariness makes them neutral enough to function as elements in a world of rich and paradoxical visual ideas. His studio practice aligns subtle references to 17th century still life structures and compositions, Surrealist painting and sculpture, Constructivist architecture, and Formalist photography. Stubbs is drawn to artists who demonstrate an extraordinary capacity for inventiveness, improvisation, imagination, and undermining rationality, and see potential in things and phenomena that are overlooked. His compositions rely on the principles of sculpture such as volume and gravity, principles of photography such as light and perspective, and principles of painting such as color and texture.

Ceaphas Stubbs graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in Visual Arts in 2011 and went on to earn an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. In 2012 he completed a residency at Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. He was the recipient of a Christopher Lyon Memorial Award in 2013, and nominated for the Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship in the spring of 2012. In 2013, Stubbs gave artist talks at the SALT Institute in Beyoglu District, Istanbul, Turkey; and at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. His works have been reviewed in The New York Times, Brooklyn Rail, Skowhegan’s SPACE/LAUNCH, EXPOSE Magazine, and AGAVE Magazine. He is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Lycoming College where he runs the Photography Department. His works have been reviewed in The New York Times, Brooklyn Rail, Skowhegan’s SPACE/LAUNCH, EXPOSE Magazine, and AGAVE Magazine.