

# PURE JOY

Inaugural exhibition

Shelter Serra: *Lawns and Fences*

February 18th - April 30, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 18, 5-8PM

303 E El Paso St. Marfa, TX 79843



PURE JOY Marfa is pleased to announce *Lawns and Fences*, an exhibition of new paintings by Shelter Serra.

Shelter Serra's work confronts issues of luxury, status, commercial consumption and the concept of the 'American Dream'. His new show of small oil paintings, titled *Lawns and Fences*, mines the idea of the suburban dream. Fences act to keep people in and fences act to keep people out, it just depends which side you are on and who owns the fence.

His paintings of suburban lawns border on the abstract, their synthetic green both verdant and artificial. His paintings of chain-link fences, another signifier of American suburbia, are especially relevant now with the threat of Trump's fence on the horizon (both figuratively and literally in Marfa where the Mexican border is a mere 60 miles south). In his work, the 'home' becomes the ultimate status object and its border is the lawn and fence.

This concept of status through objects is prevalent throughout Serra's work. His sculptural editions deal head-on with American consumerism and how selected objects in our culture become embedded with 'status'. Serra's cast multiples—of Rolex watches and Birkin bags—reflect America's obsession with wealth and status achieved through the accumulation of luxury goods. However, Serra, flips this notion of out-of-reach commodity on its head by casting these luxury items out of silicone, making them non-functional and existing purely as a signifier. The status symbol is reduced to its essence and then priced to be accessible to all.

Shelter Serra was born and raised in Bolinas, California. He received his BA from UC Santa Cruz and his MFA from RISD. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at galleries including Mead Carney Gallery, Marlborough Gallery, Ever Gold Gallery, and Baahg & Co. Serra currently lives and works in New York City.

For more information contact:

PURE JOY Marfa, LLC, 303 E El Paso St., po box 597, Marfa, TX 79843, 917.365.7672, [www.purejoymarfa.com](http://www.purejoymarfa.com), [info@purejoymarfa.com](mailto:info@purejoymarfa.com)