

LIBERAL ARTS ROXBURY

Ben Gould: Here is Abandon

February 12-May 8, 2022

Opening reception Saturday February 12, 4-6pm



Photo: Jeff Bark

LIBERAL ARTS ROXBURY is pleased to present a solo exhibition of drawings, sculpture, video and photographs by Ben Gould. *Here is Abandon*, featuring work related to Gould's current project at the Mechanicville Hydroelectric plant in Mechanicville, New York, opens Saturday February 12, 2022, with a reception at the gallery from 4-6pm, followed by a special May 7 debut screening of Gould's filmed performance, *Mechanicville*. The exhibition also includes objects and videos from Gould's past series and performances, offering background for the Mechanicville project.

Following a sudden diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome in 2015, Gould's art practice shifted from sculpture and furniture-making to explorations of the body's electro-mechanical impulses and their malfunctions. Gould has since developed innovative methods for both controlling and channeling those impulses, leading toward new forms of artistic

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expression through dance-like performance. The Mechanicville project marks the first in a series of performances that explore the body's energy systems in relation to analogous sites of energy production. Power plants, built to capture energy by harnessing the power of wind, water and sun, are situated strategically in various landscapes. The Mechanicville Hydroelectric Power Plant, located on the Hudson River twenty miles north of Albany, is the oldest continuously running hydroelectric plant in the world and also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Here amidst a district of Queen Anne architecture, overflow dams and gleaming yellow hydraulic turbine generators, Gould develops his own vocabulary of physical gestures—movements oscillating between restraint and release—in relation to the workings and symbolic environment of the power plant. A public screening of Gould's performance, filmed privately at the Mechanicville site, will be held at Liberal Arts Roxbury on Saturday May 7th. Details will follow.

All events at Liberal Arts are free and open to the general public.

[Ben Gould](#) (b. 1993) is an artist based in New York City and Peekskill, New York. He received his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2015, apprenticed with master craftsmen in his native California, and was a 2015 Ox-Bow Fellow. Gould has performed site-specific works at unique sites such as the salt flats in Death Valley; a limestone cave in Kansas City; a bunker in the Marin Headlands; and on a moving vessel on the Chicago River. His performances have been presented by Mistral Amsterdam; KANAL Centre Pompidou, Brussels; Liberal Arts Roxbury; Bozar Brussels; and The Center for Craft, Asheville, NC; Carnegie Mellon's Miller Institute for Contemporary Art, Pittsburgh; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Open Spaces Kansas City; The Chicago Cultural Center; Human Resources, CA; Sala Diaz, TX; La Esquina, Kansas City; Los Angeles Contemporary Archive; Queenslab, NY; and The Watermill Center, NY.

LIBERAL ARTS ROXBURY is open by appointment only. Contact the gallery at info@liberalartsroxbury.com for more information.