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Mike Carney: *Looking to See the Thing* Opens at Erin Cluley Gallery on Saturday May 13, 2017

[Dallas, Texas – April 12, 2017] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce an exhibition by Minneapolis-based artist **MIKE CARNEY** on Saturday May 13th, 2017, at 414 Fabrication Street, with an evening reception from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The exhibition is Carney's first solo with the gallery.

Mike Carney's practice explores balance through illusion and deception, creating relationships between image-based representation and tangible, sculptural objects. In an all new body of work, the perceptual and physical space of painting collides through a use of non-traditional materials and interruption of the painted plane. Carney's interests lie in the space between an image becoming an object and vice-versa. His work takes a cue from his belief that an image is not just a photo, but an entity in and of itself.

In *Looking to See the Thing*, Carney's aim is to decipher the difference between looking and seeing in a way that does not lend itself to the culture of immediacy. He admits to using benign images and forms that are used as his points of inquiry. His work incorporates the digestible still life, botanicals, portraits, wood working, abstract expressionism and the medium of painting, which are so familiar that their histories can be camouflaged into the mundanity of everyday life.

However, his images and objects continue to come to life in an illusion that is about referencing actual reality versus perceived reality. Carney describes this as if one were to view the world through a piece of saran wrap – it's always there, yet uncannily out of reach.

About Mike Carney

In 2014, Mike Carney received a Masters of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where for two years he was a Helen Russell Memorial Scholar. Upon completion of his graduate studies, he received a Municipal Art League Fellowship from the city of Chicago. After returning to Minneapolis, he has been the subject of features in Juxtapoz Magazine, New American Paintings, Studio Visit Magazine and with Saatchi Art. He has had solo exhibitions at the Bunker Center for the Arts in Kansas City, MO and Tarnish and Gold Gallery in Minneapolis, MN. He is now having his first solo exhibition with the Erin Cluley Gallery in Dallas, TX. His work has been shown in numerous galleries around the country in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Miami and Minneapolis. His work appears in many collections, including the Jiminez-Colon Collection in Puerto Rico.

About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

The 2000 square foot space joined a creative movement in the Trinity Groves development at the foot of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in West Dallas. Erin Cluley Gallery has been in operation since 2014.

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