



Ryan Schneider  
*Split Spirits*

Open by Appointment Only  
Exhibition Dates: 30 May - 28 June 2020



Ryan Schneider, *"Mojave Venus"*, 2020, Oil pigment on burnt wood, 49 x 14 x 12 in.

Over the Influence is pleased to present "Split Spirits", the inaugural exhibition of new sculptural works by Joshua Tree-based artist Ryan Schneider. The exhibition will include new carved wooden sculptures charred and painted in oil stick. The exhibition will be open 30 May - 28 June 2020 alongside three other solo presentations by Nicasio Fernandez, Austin Harris, and Aaron Johnson.

For the first time, Ryan Schneider will present a new series of wooden sculptures carved with a chainsaw, charred, and painted in high-contrast oil pigment. Over his past 15-year career, Schneider's emphasis in finding "surprise and joy" in the making of each new piece has translated from the canvas to sculptures which are spontaneously and instinctually formed.

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His saturated color palette favors high-contrast colors such as near-fluorescent pinks and oranges that pop against straight-from-the-tube radiant hues. His latest works of hand-carved wood are dreamy and richly colored, often featuring a spiritually charged, even shamanic quality. In critic and writer Trinie Dalton's words, Schneider's works seek to embody the "true spiritual legacy of Southern California's Mojave Desert as a place of "rediscovery"—a place where various peoples and cultures dating at least ten thousand years back have found refuge, healing, and solace."

The new works are imbued in the spirit of nature and the desert in which he resides. His process is a mixture of physical effort and instinct – the wood is slashed at and brutalized with a chainsaw, then burned, sanded, and oiled or painted. Schneider understands himself as the steward of the form, allowing it the material to guide his hand and determine the final outcome. For him the act of creation is in the movement of his body resulting in an exchange of energy from one form into another.

### **About Ryan Schneider**

Ryan Schneider was born in Indianapolis, IN, USA and holds a BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art. Recent solo exhibitions include "No Filter Eden" at V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, "Mojave Masks" at The Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, Oregon, and "Mojave Pictures" at Taymour Grahne, New York. Recent group exhibitions include "Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros" curated by Eric Fischl at The Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT, "The Birds", with V1 Gallery at the CHART art fair, Copenhagen, and "Natural Selection" at The Hole, NYC. After many years in New York City, Schneider now lives and works in Joshua Tree, CA, USA. His work is held in public and private collections worldwide, including the Hall Art Foundation and the Bank of America Collection. He has been reviewed or featured in The New Yorker, Art in America, The New York Times, Modern Painters, The Brooklyn Rail, ArtInfo, Artsy, Kunsten.dk, and The Paris Review, among many other publications.

### **Location**

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