

Louis B. James

Martin Roth
Untitled (Bonsai)



March 3 – April 13, 2013
Opening Sunday March 3, 4:00 to 8:00

For his second solo exhibition at Louis B. James, Martin Roth presents a new installation, *Untitled (Bonsai)*. The work consists of a single bonsai tree in the upper level of the gallery space, situated within of a complex soundscape orchestrated uniquely for the houseplant.

For his new installation, Roth takes meticulous care to provide the bonsai plant with the ideal soundscape in which to grow. Two speakers pointed at the bonsai emit a live feed of a chorus of animals and insects. The artist uses environmental sounds, provided by pet shop creatures, to create a simulated habitat for a tree that—due to its constant need of care—could be considered nearer to a pet than a plant. Above all, Roth's work accentuates the multi-layered relationship between animals and plants, as well as their connection to human culture, while delicately playing with the balance of nature and artificiality.

Roth's work consistently renegotiates the boundary between art and life, inside and outside, and nature and culture, bringing to mind the musical installations of Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, the chance-based operations of John Cage, and the metaphorical parables of Francis Alÿs. Past projects include growing grass on Persian rugs, raising ducklings in his studio and releasing a goldfish in the Chinese court garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Roth sets the parameters for an artwork, but allows the piece to unfold at its own natural pace, finding beauty in innate qualities.

Martin Roth received an MFA from Hunter College, New York in 2011, and previously studied at Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts and SOMA, Mexico City. Roth has had solo exhibitions at Reinisch Contemporary, Graz, Austria (2012) and Louis B. James, New York (2012). His work has been presented in group exhibitions in the following galleries and nonprofit institutions: Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Berlin, Germany (2012); Bolsa de Valores, Mexico City, Mexico (2012); and Billboard International, Auschwitz, Poland (2012), among others. He received the award, Foerderungspreis des Landes Steiermark (Ankaufspreis) in 2006, and is in the public collection of Neue Galerie at the Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria.

Louis B. James is located at 143b Orchard St, NY. The gallery is open from Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 to 6:00 and Sunday 12:00 to 6:00. For more information please email info@louisbjames.com or call (212) 533 4670.