

Maybe I'm Amazed  
curated by Sorry Archive  
at Knockdown Center



October 30 - November 22  
on view Saturdays and Sundays, 2-6pm

With never-before exhibited work from:  
Reade Bryan  
Chris Oh  
Nicole Reber  
Matthew Speedy

The groundwork for the exhibition design comes from Batty Langley's 1724 writings from his imprisonment as a debtor in Newgate (UK), which remained unrealized until today.

Langley, a once well-respected designer of elaborate gardens, fell out of favor after he became involved with freemasonry, esoteric speculations, and unusual theories about gardening in outer space. He gave some of his numerous children names like Hiram, Euclid, Vitruvius and Archimedes, and attempted to "improve" Gothic forms by giving them classical proportions. The son of a jobbing gardener of Twickenham, he prepared and published a garden plan for the Marble Hill house (probably of his own endeavor), offering an encyclopaedia of the garden features that were swiftly becoming obsolete by the time the plan (reverse) was published in Langley's 1728 *A Sure Method of Improving Estates*.

"Here are several mazes, a 'wilderness' with many tortuous path-turnings, cabinets de verdure cut into dense woodland, formal stretches of canal and formally shaped basins of water, some with central fountains, a central allée of trees leading to an exedra."

As his predictive theories for sustaining plant life heightened to fixation, his ambitions for unearthly terrain led to experimentations with new soil materials and magnetic drainage; manipulating light spectra, and the gravitational effects of various planetary systems. Although he died broke, Langley's books were enormously influential for George Washington's Mount Vernon and other plantations in Britain's American colonies.

Sorry Archive is a platform for exhibitions produced by alter egos. It is a multi-faced project that disintegrates and re-congeals after each show: a way to create and then demolish new personalities, aesthetics, and strategies.

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Reade Bryan is an artist from Houston, Texas who lives and works in Brooklyn. He has had solo shows at Wave Hill, Signal, PACS Gallery, and Brooklyn Fire Proof, and was included in exhibitions at the Bronx Museum, PS 122, and RARE gallery. His dog Wubby provided pep for this installation.

Chris Oh was born in Portland, Oregon and now lives and works in Brooklyn. He graduated from School of Visual Arts in 2004. His work has been exhibited at Youth Group, On Stellar Rays, Salon Society, the Ryobi Room, and more. He will be included in upcoming shows at Good Work, Galerie Manque, and Safe Gallery.

Nicole Reber is a poet and artist born in Southern California, 1989. Recent exhibitions of her work have taken place at Chinatown Soup, Kimberly-Klark, Silent Barn, and BHQFU. She has spoken at MoMA PS1 and Printed Matter, and is a co-curator of Packet, a bi-weekly art publication that recently published its 65th issue.

Matt Speedy lives and works in Philadelphia, where he is a graduate sculpture student at Tyler School of Art, Temple University. He was included in Sorry Archive's 2014 exhibition at Knockdown Center "And the Villagers Never Liked You Anyway", as well as other shows with Aeaeae, Greenpoint Terminal, and Makeshift Studios.

