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PRESS RELEASE

STUART ARENDS
There To Here

Opening Saturday September 19, 2.30

From 19 September to 21 November 2015

I started using found material in 1980, but only on specific occasions. Normally, I didn't use found material, with the exception of a few boxes, but they weren't even old. A few years ago, while I was in an antique shop in Iowa looking for some objects to buy for my own home, I noticed a pile of wooden blocks with the alphabet and pictures in relief. Something about them drew my attention, so, almost on a whim, I bought a few of them and took them back to my studio. They sat there on a shelf for a whole year before I finally figured out what I might do with them. The result of my work was what I now call "Kid Blocks". Those pieces are more powerful and intriguing than I had imagined at first, and thanks to that first attempt, I was encouraged to search for other "found objects" that I could take back to the studio and rework: boxes, small boats, and many other forms. So what began simply out of curiosity led to a complete turnaround in my work, and I believe this will continue into the near future as well.

Stuart Arends (born in 1950 Iowa, currently lives and works in New Mexico) presents his third solo show at Studio Dabbeni, where a series of unpublished works made over the past two years are on view. The American artist has focused on the use of "found" boxes and toys, modifying them with oil paint and wax. Arends' work has always wavered from sculpture to painting, but recently his refined minimalist style has involved objects that are no longer mere neutral supports: rather, they are laden with intimate feelings or references linked to visual and cognitive memory in which the artist's tactile, pictorial and gestural qualities are accentuated.