PRESS RELEASE

Leo Benavides & Ellen Poppy Hill
Triple Socket
26 November 2026–23 January 2027

Triple Socket is artist-duo Leo Benavides and Ellen-Poppy Hill's first exhibition with the gallery. Following *Rub My Belly*, an exhibition of their collaborative drawings in Paris last year, *Triple Socket* presents 15 new exquisite corpse drawings and an installation of large hand-painted Kalamkari works on mulberry silk and cotton using natural dyes.

Sprawling with characters drawn into existence through a series of games, the overarching theme of *Triple Socket* is play. Folding paper sheets in three, Hill and Benavides take it in turns to build their allocated third with intricate anthropomorphic drawings, shaping near-crude figures using bricks, curtains, washing machines, candles and clothes hangers in place of body parts.

Born out of a morning ritual, the characters which make up the drawings capture and reflect dreams, conversations, gestures and stories in which the duo play visual and literal hide-and-seek. Their drawings are vividly animated and teeming with life: figures spring from houses, peek through curtains, write letters, play instruments and gaze into mirrors. Hidden across the sheets of yellowed paper are messages, wry statements, questions and altered book titles, easter eggs visible on closer inspection.

Also shown for the first time in *Triple Socket* are three works on mulberry silk and cotton. Painted in India between Jaipur, Rajasthan and Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, the works were made in collaboration with artists A. Sunitha and V. Dhanalakshmi as part of a collaboration conceptualised by curator Stella Berkofsky and facilitated by Wonderful World Association/Wonderful Workshops and NGO, DWARAKA. In traditional Kalamkari technique, the artists first sketched in tamarind stem charcoal and then used a bamboo kalam wrapped in cotton string to soak up the natural dyes.

Painted almost entirely in primary colours, the scenes on silk and cotton feature clusters of people partying, packed into planes and peeping over walls. Taking inspiration from Nava Nari Kunjara, a traditional composite motif in Indian and South Asian art they discovered in Mahansar, as much as from the bustling congregations of people they encountered, in the gallery the silks are installed to restage three scenes. Benavides and Hill worked from either end of the fabric, each silk retaining a divide or fold though the centre where the drawings seem to double back, creating a panoramic view or dual perspective.

Markedly theatrical, the two drawings on mulberry silk appear as singspiels: responses to *The Moon Song* (2014) by Karen O and Ezra Koenig and *Blue Horizon* (1944) by Sidney Bechet. The melodies of each song run along the top length of the silk, while words selected by a game of association feature under the guise of a narrative along the bottom; language subverted, stripped of its functions as a signifier or cue.

Rebellious and defiant of any single style, narrative or medium, Benavides and Hill's private language, iconographies and symbols prioritise play over control and instinct over reason, two distinct voices alive in a joint imagined landscape with its roots in the real.

Leo Benavides & Ellen Poppy Hill (Live and work in London, UK.)

Leo Benavides (b. 1997, London, UK) and Ellen Poppy Hill (b. 1998, London, UK) are an artist duo working collaboratively across drawing and textiles while maintaining their individual practices as filmmaker, sculptor and fashion designer.

Benavides is a practicing filmmaker and artist, working across mediums including resin, sculpture, painting and drawing as a means of webbing textures of the past and the present, suspended between points of becoming and belonging. Their work is informed by creative solutions to limitations, tales of migration, movement and people as infrastructure. Benavides is interested in elements of circuitry, surrealist assemblages and moving images as a means of play, using the unreliable narrator to disrupt fixed ideas of truth, memory and authorship.

Since graduating from Central Saint Martins in 2019, Benavides' work has been shown at the BFI, Tate and the ICA in London. International presentations include *Lost in Transition*, with Yassine Rachidi at the Midhat Al Sultan, Tunis, TN (2022); and *Bartering with Wire* at Les Fondations 312, Brussels, BE, (2023).

Hill is a fashion designer and artist whose work merges garment-making, performance, illustration and storytelling into immersive, character-driven worlds. Working towards one show per year, Hill treats each presentation as a theatrical experience rather than a conventional runway. Her most recent runway, *Sharpen Up Your Act!*, was presented off schedule during London Fashion Week in September 2026 at the Camden Arts Project amongst Allen Jones' sculptures and with shoes lent by the Zandra Rhodes Foundation Archive. Hill's work has been documented in British Vogue, Dazed, I-D and AnOther Magazine.

Since graduating from Central Saint Martins (MA) in 2023, Hill works across commissions (including her Renewal Service), costume design and one-off productions, most recently for composer Oliver Leith's *Garland* presented at Bold Tendencies in 2025 and 2026. Hill's works of clothing and drawing have also been presented at Passage Du Commerce at Kunsthalle Winterthur, December, Zurich, CH (2025).

Together, solo exhibitions include *Rub My Belly*, Villa Riberolle, Paris, FR (2025) and group exhibitions include *Fourteen*, Tramhouse 11, Amsterdam, NL (2026).