



SERENA COLE & LIBBY BLACK @ GALLERY 16

May 13, 2016



Serena Cole and Libby Black are pals from their days at California College of the Arts, and together they are opening two separate solo shows at Gallery 16 tonight. We can't wait to see what they've been cooking up, and though their work is very different, they seem to have created two perfectly complementary shows.

Libby Black makes graphite drawings and paper sculptures that question the idea of luxury items in her show, *A Light that Never Goes Out*. Every glamorous woman needs a Gucci life preserver, right? Analogously, Serena Cole explores ideas of isolation and identity, and says she is fascinated by the idea that "we all want to be someone else, but the person we want to be also wants to be someone else." Taking inspiration from fashion magazine poses and religious iconography, every single one of her figures stares into your soul in her new series, titled *Let Me Look at You*. Cole's style is mesmerizing, and she uses gold leaf accents to create opulence and question our culture of consumption. Libby Black also explores "identity, impermanence and the glitzy emptiness of desire and greed," and she considers her object-focused work to be a form of self-portraiture. These two artists are a match made in heaven and their work requires an in-person viewing. We'll see you there.

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