

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING/BREAK NYC 2025

States of Rain

**Artist Michael Handley
Curator Michele Jaslow**

75 Varick, NYC

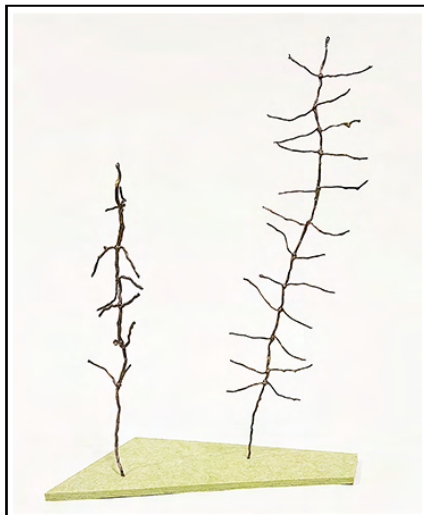
**Sunday, May 6, 2025
Collectors First Look + Press
Preview 12PM - 5pm
-VIP Opening Night 5PM - 8PM**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2025
VIP Preview Day 12PM-7PM**

**May 8 - 12, 2025
Regular Show Days
12PM - 7PM**



MICHAEL HANDLEY: HONG KONG GARDEN



MICHAEL HANDLEY: BREEZE #10

States of Rain plays in dust and downpour. Curator Michele Jaslow and artist Michael Handley, whose work uses cloud-seeding material coaxing moisture to coalesce into rain, explore America's pursuit of its potential – The dream of shaping the land, suspended between scarcity and excess.

The fragility of paradise is woven into the American ideology of manifest destiny. An idea the United States created to expand and encompass the continent by bringing civilization and the good life to the frontier. Settlers sought to transform untamed and wild landscapes into agrarian paradises, often through large-scale alteration of the natural environment. This way of life often resulted in environmental destabilization or cultural ruptures; the fragility of paradise is exposed when imposing an idealized order upon complex ecosystems.

Controlling the weather supports the success of this paradise. Both uniquely American and universally relatable. Artist Michael Handley's work here is rooted in American ideals, both the chase and

the tools to examine and conquer. Handley examines how water, or the lack thereof, transforms drought-stricken landscapes by engaging in cloud seeding—dispersing material like silver iodide to induce rain — he highlights the human desire to engineer paradise in arid regions.

Handley's rain making work speaks to the impermanence of paradise and the delicate balance between intervention and consequence. For an individualist with a frontier spirit chasing the idea of paradise, Handley's individual-sized rainmaker sculptures and vessels serve as an imagined item to pack in a trailblazer's go bag. His relief wall sculptures have vessels extending from them acting as if they were an outstretched tongue pleading to catch the rain they summoned.

***"He who controls the weather controls the world."* - Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States**

MORE INFORMATION: www.radarcuratorial.com

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