# SARAH MAPLE.

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"THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS" Solo Exhibition Curated by Indira Cesarine

#### **Exhibition on View**

January 22 - February 8, 2019

The Untitled Space gallery is pleased to present, "Thoughts and Prayers," a solo exhibition of works by artist Sarah Maple, curated by gallery director Indira Cesarine, opening January 22, 2019, and on view through February 8, 2019. Sarah Maple is an award-winning visual artist known for her bold, brave, mischievous and occasionally controversial artworks that challenge notions of identity, religion and the status quo. Hailing from Britain, this will be the first solo exhibition of the artist in the United States. Much of Maple's inspiration originates from being raised Muslim, with parents of mixed religious and cultural backgrounds. "Thoughts and Prayers" will feature many new works, as well as a selection of some of her most notable past works, exploring a wide variety of media including performance, painting, photography, sculpture, collage, installation, and video. Maple's pro-feminist artwork provokes a dialogue with her sharp humor and satirical eye. She fearlessly addresses what it means to be a Muslim in the Western world. Her taboo-breaking artwork fights against censorship as she investigates themes of politics, violence, freedom, feminism, and the ironies of pop culture. She often employs self-portraiture as a vehicle for her narrative, or engages guerrilla-style performance as a means to convey her message.

Sarah Maple graduated with BA in Fine Art from Kingston University London in 2007 and in the same year won The Saatchi Gallery's "4 New Sensations" award for emerging artists. Maple's artwork, film, and performances have been exhibited internationally at galleries and institutions including Tate Britain, The Barbican, AIR Gallery, and The New Art Exchange, among many others. Maple's work has been the subject of documentaries including for ARTE and VPRO. In 2015 she released her first book "You Could Have Done This," a hardback of selected works. The same year she was awarded a Sky Academy Arts scholarship from Sky Arts, which included funding, mentoring and a Sky Arts documentary. In 2017 she gave a TEDx talk in Birmingham, UK on the importance of free speech, titled "The Freedom To Be Challenged."

Her work has been featured in numerous international publications, including *Vogue, The Guardian, i-D Magazine, The Sunday Times UK, The Independent, People Magazine, Dazed*, and the *Huffington Post* among many others. In 2018 she was invited to make a limited edition cover for Harper's Bazaar's art issue alongside artists including Yayoi Kusama, Barbara Kruger, and Linder Sterling. Her artwork is in collections including Soho House, The Hyman Collection and the Ned. Sarah lives and works in Sussex, England.

"I think we need to be challenged, we need to hear challenging, radical, provocative things, even if we don't agree with them, as it's those things that make us react and make us want to bring about change..." Sarah Maple for TEDx

#### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

"My work is largely motivated by my upbringing as well as my interest in activism and gender politics. Citing current affairs I create works that provoke the viewer through satirical, tongue-in-cheek commentary. My mother is a Muslim from Kenya, who married my British father in the 1970s. She raised me as a Muslim in the UK and sent my siblings and I to a Catholic school. Much of my work examines the duality of my multicultural upbringing and the conflict of identity among young Muslims living in the western world. I began to explore these themes after reflecting on Muslim identity in Britain post 9/11 and 7/7 and the impact of the Iraq war. Motivated by the current political climate and being from an immigrant background, these subjects are close to my heart as I question notions of identity, belonging, and "otherness" in my works.

I see many parallels between the UK and the US, especially with Brexit and the Trump election. The gun debate is something especially intriguing to the British. The threat of terror is continually focused on and yet nothing is done about gun laws. When officials offer up "Thoughts And Prayers," it appears hollow and insincere. I am interested in how a lack of action directly and/or indirectly inflicts suffering and potential violence on its citizens.

Also inspired by feminism and gender politics, my work aims to challenge deep-seated ideas about what it means to be a woman. I am interested in the role shame plays in women's lives - how we take up space in the world, our physical appearance, bodily functions and "blame culture." I explore the ways we can change the visual narrative for women as a form of empowerment. The medium I choose is determined by the strongest way to deliver my message; hence it is constantly evolving across a wide variety of media. Self-portraiture, for example, offers the possibility of taking ownership of our image. When we photograph ourselves, we have complete control over how we want our selves, our gender, our femininity, and our sexuality to be perceived by others. Humor is also an important element in my work. I often use a "Trojan horse" to get my message across and sometimes I just like to point out the obvious as this can be the most direct way to highlight how ridiculous something is. I used to accept a lot at face value but when I discovered feminism it motivated me not only to question the role of women, but also the preconceived ideas relating to all things in society." – *Artist Sarah Maple* 



**INSTALL VIEWS** 



























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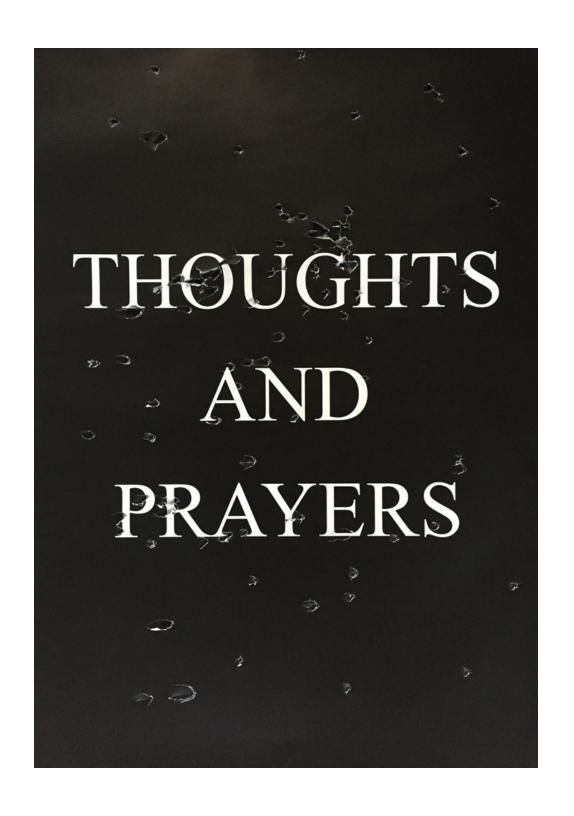
Make Art Great Again, 2018

Museum Archival C-Print
mounted on gold Plexglass

Limited Edition of 3

40" x 30"





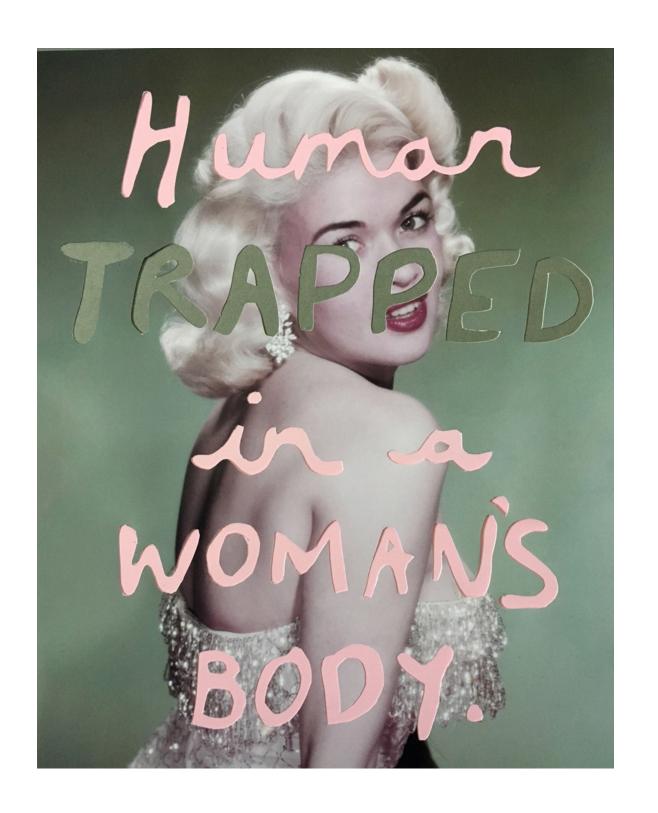
Thoughts And Prayers, 2018
Affiche Paper, Bullet Holes
Limited Edition of 100
23.4" x 16.5"



Menstruate With Pride, 2011 Oil on Canvas / 3 Panels 84.6" x 108.3"

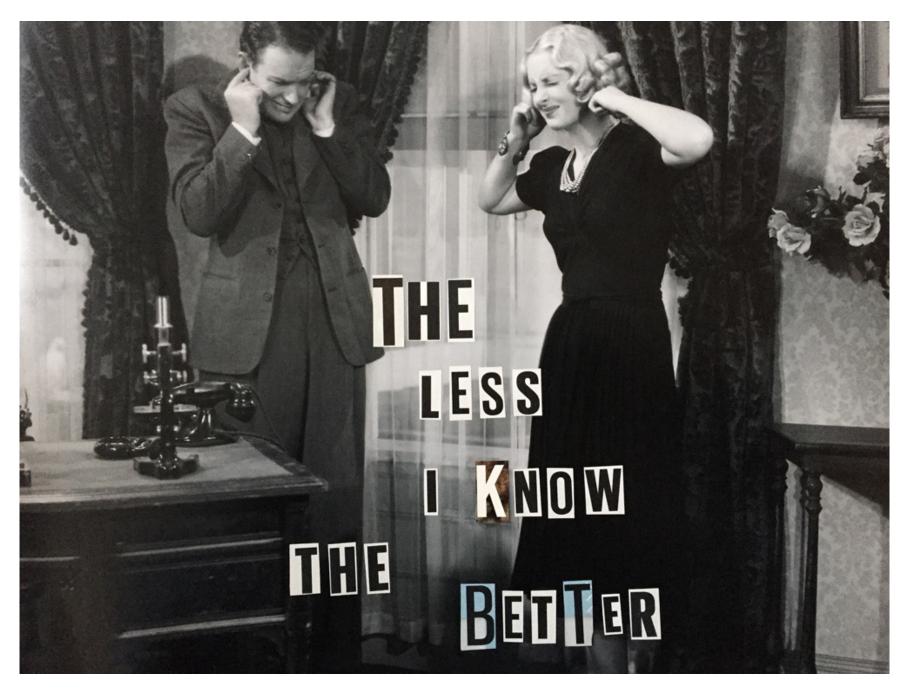


**Go Home, 2016**Acrylic Paint on Globe
Unique
11.8" x 15.7"



### Human Trapped, 2018 Collage on paper mounted on pink plexiglass

Collage on paper mounted on pink plexiglass Unique 17.6" x 15"



The Less I Know, 2019
Collage on paper mounted on fluorescent pink plexiglass

Unique / 16" x 20"



#### In Time, 2018

Collage on paper mounted on blue plexiglass Unique 18.5" x 14.25"



We Want Our Gun, 2018
Collage on paper mounted
on transparent red plexiglass
Unique
15.5" x 14.25"



#### Go Back, 2019

Collage on paper mounted on blue plexiglass Unique 20" x 20"



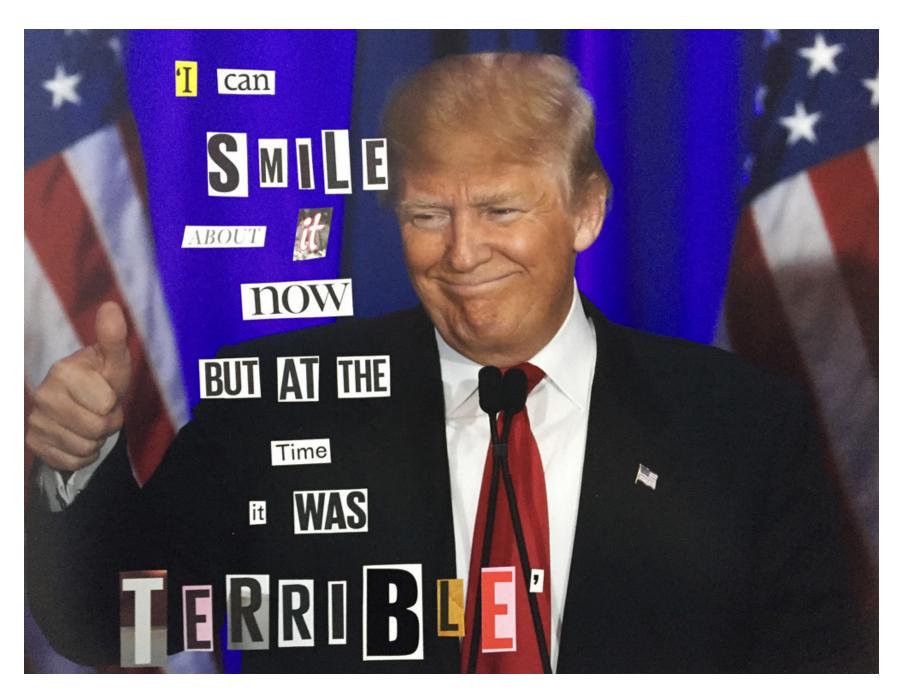
### This Is My Penis, 2018 Collage on paper mounted on red plexiglass Unique 15.5" x 12.25"



Good Old Days, 2018
Collage on paper mounted on orange plexiglass
Unique / 19.6" x 23.5"



Mars and Venus, 2018 Collage, mounted on fluorescent yellow plexiglass 15.5" x 12.25"

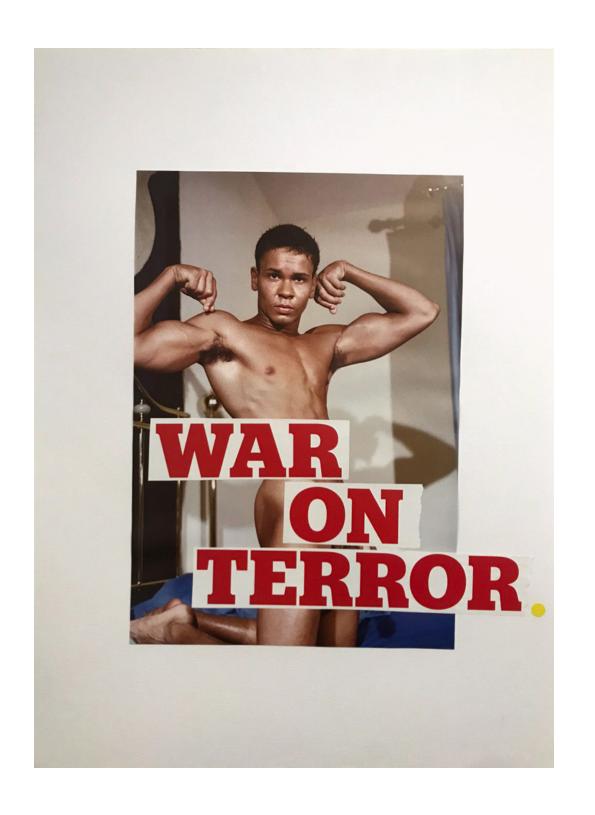


I Can Smile About It Now, 2019

Collage on paper mounted on blue plexiglass Unique / 20" x 16"



We Laugh At Men, 2017 Giclée print mounted on yellow plexiglass Unique 20" X 16"



War On Terror, 2018
Collage on paper mounted on yellow plexiglass
Unique
20" x 16"



#### End Of The World, 2018

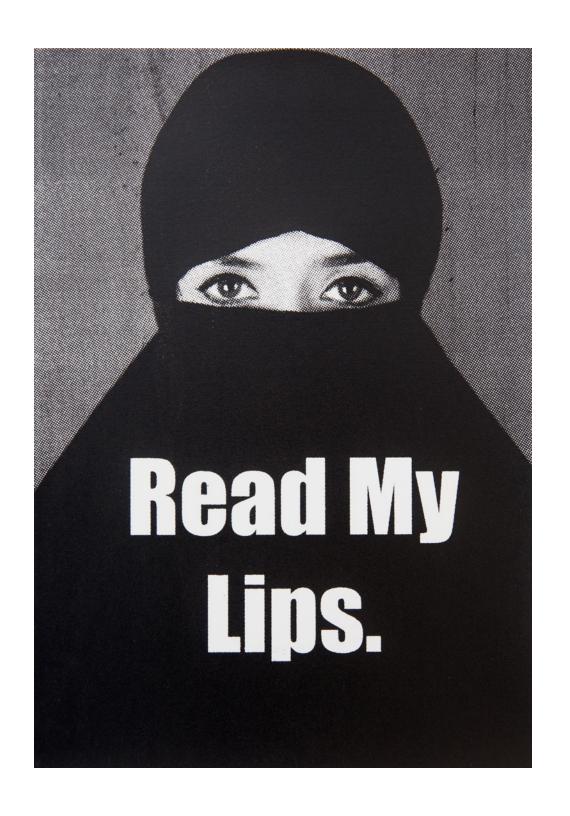
Collage on paper mounted on green mirrored plexiglass Unique 21.6" x 18"



Cyclops, 2018
Collage on paper
mounted on gold mirror plexiglass
15.5" x 12.25"



Fighting Fire With Fire, 2015 Limited Edition Screenprint 25.6" x 21.7"



Read My Lips, 2018 Limited Edition Screenprint 30" x 21.7" Asshole.

#### **Opposite To A Feminist**

Museum Archival Digital C-Print Limited Edition 30" x 24" and 5" x 7"



Anti Rape Cloak, 2015 Embroidered Fabric Sculptural Intallation Unique 47.2" x 70.8"



**Mojave Cloak, 2015**Limited Edition Museum Archival C-Print 15.7" x 23.6"



**Subway Cloak, 2015** Limited Edition Museum Archival C-Print 15.7" x 23.6"



## Inaction, 2012 Installation, White Vinyl Overlay on Glass Mirror Limited Edition 30" x 30"



Amber Rose Started Following Scott Disick On Instagram, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed in black wood Limited Edition

9" x 9"



Chris Hemsworth's Wife Has Slight Wardrobe Malfunction, 2016 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



Gigi Hadid Channels Inner Cowgirl, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



Johnny Depp's Son Is Doing Fine, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



Katie Holmes Daughter Suri Hold \$5 Bill After Taxi Ride, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



Kendall Jenner Wears
Pink Blouse, 2018
Engraved Marbled, Framed
Limited Edition
9" x 9"



Kourtney Kardashian
Describes How To
Eat Kit Kat, 2017
Engraved Marbled, Framed
Limited Edition
9" x 9"



Meghan Markle Closes Car Door, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



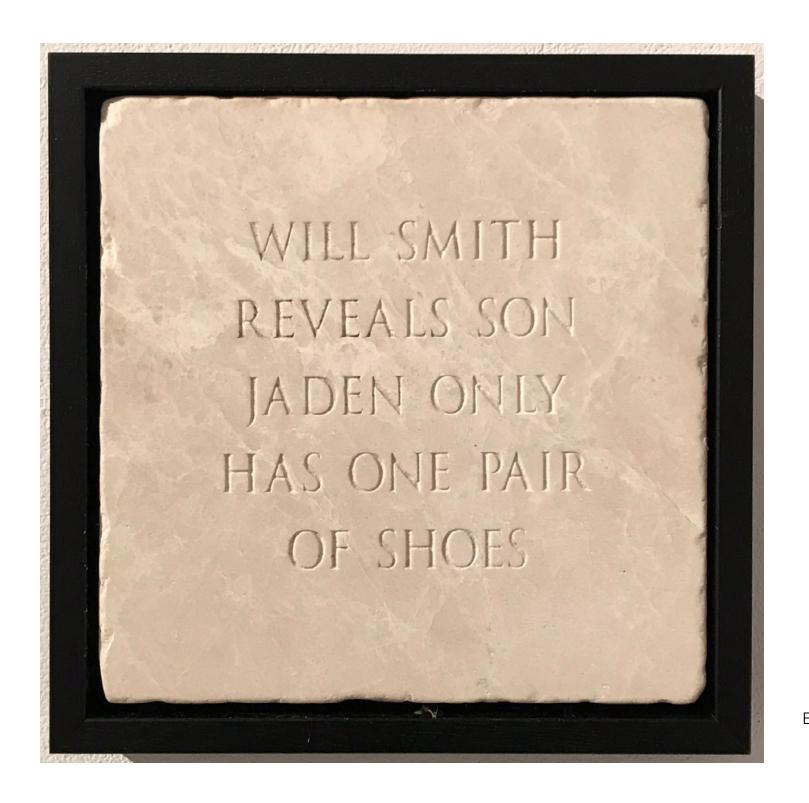
Prince Harry's
Ex Chelsy Davy Pulls
Hair From Mouth, 2018
Engraved Marbled, Framed
Limited Edition
9" x 9"



Ryan Seacrest Looks Tense, 2018 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"



**Tired Looking Ben Affleck Sports A Beard, 2018**Engraved Marbled, Framed
Limited Edition
9" x 9"



Will Smith Reveals Son Jaden Only Has One Pair Of Shoes, 2015 Engraved Marbled, Framed Limited Edition 9" x 9"





## **SELECT PRESS ON THOUGHTS & PRAYERS EXHIBIT**

