

DEVON DIKEOU AT JAMES FUENTES, NEW YORK

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"Pray for Me" ---Pope Francis I, Titian: Pope Paul III and his Grandsons 2014 mounted c-print 82.625 x 69.33 inches (209.87 x 176.10 cm) Edition of 1 plus 1 AP and 1 exhibition copy

James Fuentes, New York is hosting "Pray For Me"—Pope Francis I", an exhibition by artist Devon Dikeou, on view through July 28, 2017.

The exhibition presents an installation work by Texas-based artist Devon Dikeou (b. 1963, Denver, Colorado, United States), known for her works that define the spaces that act as interfaces between the artist and the context of viewing the art, which often includes the viewers into a participatory role in her works. The visual properties of her works distinctly involves the Conceptual models in their physical reality, with the titles of her works further delve into these ideas by tapping into popular culture, creating another level of critique. For this installation, Devon focuses on the lack of seating arrangements for the tired visitors at the antique establishments of galleries, museum period rooms, and art fairs, which raises the risk of someone mistakenly sitting on an artwork, or being silently reprimanded by placards

displaying phrases such as “Please Refrain from Sitting on Furniture”, or “Do Not Touch”, or simply by a fancy ribbon tied from arm to arm. “Pray For Me”—Pope Francis I” presents ten 17th century Italian “monk” chairs, which function as random seating throughout the art gallery. Originally termed as “friarlero”- meaning “brothers”- due to their use by monks or higher religious actuary, even Popes, each of these chairs are named after an historical painting of a Pope. Individually photographed and positioned according to the respective painting, but without the seated subject, these chairs highlight their absence, conjuring their papal ghosts. Additionally, the installation features a reliquary housing ”relics” shed by the chairs at the artists’ possession, hinting towards another practice followed by Catholic Churches.

The exhibition is on view at James Fuentes, 55 Delancey Street, New York, NY 10002, USA.

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