The Garage

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Matt Sears
BIGLY
October 8 - November 10, 2020

On the eve of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, the Garage proudly presents *BIGLY* by Matt Sears.

Sears made "BIGLY" immediately after the 2016 election, taking a 3 x 5-foot American flag, bleaching it, dousing it in spray tan and hanging it from two safety matches. He describes the act as “a fervent and cathartic state of being, as many of us were in at that time. I wanted to make something that was emotionally tactile and immediate, a do-it-yourself dissent kit of sorts. Hanging the flag from two matchsticks brings the implication of burning it -- that classic act of defiance and revolt -- and is perhaps the focal point of the piece for me."

To accompany the exhibition, Sears and the Garage are offering a photographic print of “BIGLY” and donating 85% of sales proceeds to UnLocal, Inc., a community-centered non-profit organization that provides legal representation and community education to New York City’s undocumented immigrant communities. The print can be purchased at thegarage.gallery/editions.

Matt Sears was born in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. His work explores subjects like collective time and loss through the displacement of the commonplace, incorporating elements of sculpture, photography, and assemblage. He views his work as a collection of gestures signaling larger themes behind and beyond the mundane sources of the presented objects or processes. A pervading sense of mortality and referrals to the limits of memory coincide with allusions to the dangers of climate change and the tempestuous state of our current socio-political landscape.