



Clemente Ciarrocca
Martin Rován

a circle is the only shape defined by its centre

A Circle Is the Only Shape Defined by its Centre is set within a play composed of an undefined number of scenes. The core dramatis personae, C, M, B, and A, are shared with Sarah Kane's last published piece, *Crave*, from which the show borrows its title. Interpreting the centre as the Subject and the circle as the World through Kane's wording, *A Circle* covers scenes XXI to XXX in the play, fragmentarily. A transcript of Scene XXIII functions as the exhibition text, originally shared between the artists as a common source of inspiration, setting the stage and loosely tying the presentation together.

'Dramatis personae' translates from the Latin as 'the characters of a play,' or more accurately, 'the masks of the drama.' 'Persona' first named the theatrical mask worn in Greek and Roman performance, its most likely etymology connecting it to *per-sonare*, 'to sound through,' the mask through which the actor's voice projected. From 'mask,' the sense grew more abstract: the role an actor played, then the role a person plays in life, and eventually the person as a bearer of legal and social standing, a being capable of holding rights and duties under Roman law. The term became central in early Christian theology as well, where the Trinity spoke of three personae in one substance, as distinct roles or modes of being rather than separate entities.

In the exhibition, each work seems to be referring to a scene, each title preceded by one of the initials signifying the characters (or the artists?) and including a numeral drawn in the essential signs 'X', 'V' and 'I', as though the work were the abstraction of that character's action within the scene. And yet each character is itself, already, an abstraction.

from 25 April to 9 May 2026

at affair

böckhstr 41, 10967 Berlin, DE