

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANCES STARK

OSSERVATE, LEGGETE CON ME
MARCH 3 – APRIL 21, 2012

Gavin Brown's enterprise, 620 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10014

Osservate, leggete con me [trans: observe, read with me] is a line from an aria in Mozart's Don Giovanni when Leporello lists all the women Don Giovanni's slept with. Frances Stark's exhibition consists of two separate text-video pieces: *Osservate, leggete con me*, 2012, a 3-channel projection piece in the first gallery (approx 30 min) and *Nothing is enough*, 2012 a single-channel piece in the second gallery (14 min).

In *Osservate, leggete con me*, 2012, textual "lyrics" are projected on to the gallery walls and an abridged, orchestral, audio-version of the aria repeats 9 times. Stark's lyrics are, in fact, edited transcripts of 9 separate Skype-conversations between the artist and different men around the world. Each conversation is dramatically choreographed to the music. There are two 'voices' in this piece, the male voice always appears on the left, female/artist on the right.

In *Nothing is enough*, 2012 Frances engages in a more self-reflexive conversation – potentially a coda – with an Italian architect set to the score of a slow and low piano improvisation. This music, ripped from YouTube, is performed by another man she met online and to whom she paid for the usage.

Frances Stark (°1967, Newport Beach, California) is based in Los Angeles, California. She received her MFA from Art Center College of Art and Design (Pasadena, California), and is currently an Assistant Professor at University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts (Los Angeles, California) Through both writing and visual art, Frances Stark addresses the conditions of creative labor, producing candid and affecting work about the nature of artistic practice and the corresponding yet integral banality of the everyday. The artist's body of work stands as a self-reflexive inquiry into the process of artistic production, and the often-elided demands of daily life.

Recent solo exhibitions were presented at the MIT List Visual Arts Center (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2010); Centre for Contemporary Art (Glasgow, 2010); Nottingham Contemporary (Nottingham, England, 2009); Portikus (Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 2008); Wiener Secession (Vienna, Austria, 2008); greengrassi (London, England, 2008); FRAC – Bourgogne (Dijon, France, 2007); Artspace (San Antonio, Texas, 2006); and at CRG Gallery (New York City, New York, 2005). Recent group exhibitions include *Restless Empathy*, Aspen Art Museum (Aspen, Colorado, 2010); *The Page*, Kimmerich (New York City, New York, 2010); *For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (Detroit, Michigan, 2010); *Picturing the Studio*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois, 2009); *Poor. Old. Tired. Horse.*, Institute of Contemporary Arts (London, England, 2009); and possibly but not certainly *Mark Leckey and Frances Stark*, Galerie Daniel Buchholz (Berlin, Germany, 2009); *The Space of Words*, MUDAM: Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (Luxembourg, 2009); *Pretty Ugly*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise (New York City, New York, 2008); *Word Event*, Kunsthalle Basel (Basel, Switzerland, 2008); and the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum (New York City, New York, 2008).

