

What Pipeline presents

Pieter Schoolwerth
Your Vacuum Sucks

September 5 - October 11, 2014

Opening Friday, September 5, 6 - 9 PM

Screening and Artist Talk
Saturday, September 6, 2 PM

3525 W. Vernor Hwy
Detroit, MI 48216

whatpipeline.com



This show began one day when a very rare space opened up while I was cleaning my house. I was using a shitty old green vacuum and noticed it wasn't picking anything up, and out of banal frustration I instinctively blurted out "this vacuum sucks!" I then stopped for a moment to reconsider this statement: if it didn't suck it wouldn't be a vacuum. In other words, performing the function of 'sucking' is precisely what creates its identity, yet if it doesn't work properly it still possesses and maintains this same identity – it sucks. There is (apparently) only one way *it* can be.

Therefore as one negotiates the presence of a vacuum one is up against a dictatorial feedback loop in which by intrinsically logical necessity there is but one possible outcome, or way of being and feeling the presence of 'it'. This somehow seems inordinately unsatisfactory. For the purposes of this exhibition I wanted to understand why this is the case, and determine if, perhaps, there might be another way *out* of this situation – a different way in which the vacuum could 'work' and be experienced.

That being said, half an inch above, it seemed the best way to 'figure' this *out* was to set up a situation in which a figure enters the vacuum, is sucked-*in* so to speak, and in doing so also contractually accepts the terms necessitated by the feedback loop that his/her body also literally be sucked-*out*. By existing both *in* the vacuum – as a hole, a shadow, a warped reflection or an abstraction - yet also literally and entirely removed from 'it', one might have an appropriate model by which to represent life in this previously unknown space - one in which 'space' (*it's* self) has literally been 'taken out'. In this process of producing simultaneous presence and absence, maybe it could be possible to inhabit a newly destabilized space-less ground zero of sorts, wherein the vacuum's categorically enforced, sadistically singular rule of being is momentarily suspended, so that something else could happen...and everyone has a vacuum, which they routinely use to prepare and maintain the ground below.

Your Vacuum Sucks is an ever-expanding vacuum of paintings, drawings, and a single channel video made in collaboration with Alexandra Lerman, which will be inaugurally plugged in at What Pipeline in Detroit (September 2014), then move on to New Delhi, India (GallerySKE, October 2014), and New York (Miguel Abreu Gallery, March 2015). With each iteration the vacuum accumulates more and more material inside *it's* (body) – an eminently space-less place - which, whether it 'works' or not, most certainly sucks... because if it didn't it wouldn't be a vacuum.

- Pieter Schoolwerth

What Pipeline is open Saturdays 2 - 7 PM & by appointment.

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