

GALERIE CRÈVECOEUR
4 RUE JOUYE-ROUVE
75020 PARIS

The Promise
March 16 - April 30, 2011

Agnieszka Polska, Shana Moulton, Susanne M. Winterling
David Malek, Erin Shirreff, Florian et Michaël Quistrebert

a proposal by Martha Kirszenbaum

The Promise is an exhibition of young European and American artists, presenting work that deals with the reappropriation of objects. Whether expressed aesthetically, historically or personally, the act of creating reality is represented here as existing between fascination with and detachment from form and influence. The gap linking these two approaches appears precisely as the moment when everything is possible, when one can infinitely remake: this is the space of the promise.

Some artists in the exhibition use archival material to accomplish this, such as Agnieszka Polska, whose animations are visual collages made of photographs found in art magazines and newspapers from the 1960s, giving her videos a documentary aspect. *My Favorite Things* desecrates art history's iconic forms through considering them as everyday objects.

Others re-aestheticize the object in its pure form, providing it with a cult dimension. This is the case in the work of Susanne M. Winterling whose 16 mm film *Untitled (cupstairspearls)* is a short loop of baroque and bourgeois inspiration. Combining a disturbing humor and a low-tech and pop sensibility, Shana Moulton has produced a series of videos and performances including *The Galactic Pot Healer*, which deal with hypochondria, American mass consumption and Californian psychedelia. Evoking minimal sculpture and Stone Age monoliths, Erin Shirreff's series *Signatures* strike us with their austerity and angular lines. This photographic mise en abyme brings to the photographed object a mythical aspect and a reappropriation on a pedestal.

Some, finally, bring up to date objects-images and objects-influences. Inspired by geometric abstraction and optical art, David Malek's canvas reveals in depth research on color space in painting, while reusing an imagery taken from science fiction. Florian and Michaël Quistrebert have transformed one of the gallery walls into a black and white tapestry of optical illusion, borrowed from Lingelbach's scintillating grid. Displayed as a background for the other pieces of the show, it appears as the artists' will to captivate the viewer through hypnosis, as much as to mock the notion of white cube, the object containing and the object contained.

Martha Kirszenbaum is an independent curator based in Paris. She graduated from Sciences-Po in Paris and Columbia University in New York. After interning at the Department of Media at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, she assisted the chief curator of the Photography Department at Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and worked at the New Museum, New York as a research assistant on the exhibitions *The Generational: Younger Than Jesus* and *Brion Gysin: The Dreamachine*. As an independent curator, Martha Kirszenbaum has organized exhibitions in New York City (Austrian Cultural Forum, Envoy Enterprises and the International Studio and Curatorial Practice). She was the 2010 curator-in-residence for New York's Residency Unlimited, and completed a curatorial residency at the Center for Contemporary Art in Warsaw (Poland) in the Fall of 2010.

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Agnieszka Polska

Born in 1985, lives and works in Krakow and Berlin. Her work fluctuates between animation, video and photography. A recent graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow and Berlin's UDK, she has participated in exhibitions in Poland (Bunkier Sztuki, Krakow, Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu, Torun), Germany (Berlin TV Tower, Zak-Branicka Gallery), Austria (Georg Kargl Gallery), Switzerland (Fotomuseum Winterthur) and in New York City (College Arts Association 2011 Conference).

Shana Moulton

Born in 1976, lives and works in Brooklyn. A video-artist and performer, she graduated from University of California in Berkeley and received her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She also attended De Ateliers residency program in Amsterdam. Her work has been exhibited in New York City (Armory Show, Bellwether Gallery, Canada Gallery, Smack Mellon), Barcelone (Loop '05 Video Festival), Dublin (Dark Light Festival), Edinburgh (Aurora), Amsterdam (Fons Welters) and Berlin (Art Forum 2010).

Florian & Michaël Quistrebert

Born in France in 1982 and 1976, Florian and Michaël Quistrebert graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Nantes. Their work has been exhibited in several institutions in France (Galerie Crèvecoeur, Paris; Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse; Domaine Départemental de Chamarande; 40MCube, Rennes), Europe (Glasgow Project Room; Hangar, Barcelona) and the United States (International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York; Diesel Denim Gallery, New York, Miami Art Basel and Carol Jazzar Gallery, Miami). In 2009, they completed a one-year residency at Triangle Arts Association in New York City (Dumbo).

Erin Shirreff

Erin Shirreff was born in 1975, and she lives and works in New York City. Her photographs, videos and sculptures have been presented in the exhibition Greater New York 2010, at the Sculpture Garden and the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. She lately had a solo exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, and will be exhibited in 2011 at The Power Plant in Toronto and Aspen Art Museum.

David Malek

Davis Malek, born in 1977, lives and works in Brooklyn. He received his MFA from Hunter College in New York City, and has also studied at University Rennes II. He participated in numerous group-shows in the United States (White Columns, Werkstatte Gallery and Amy Smith-Stewart Gallery in New York), Europe (PSM Gallery in Berlin, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen in Brussels and La Salle de Bains in Lyon), some of which were organized by art critic Bob Nickas. He has recently produced in-situ installations for Cerruti stores.

Susanne M . Winterling

Susanne M. Winterling was born in 1970 and lives and works in Berlin. She graduated from Academies of Fine Arts in Hamburg and Braunschweig and has exhibited internationally, notably at the 2008 Berlin Biennial, at Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel and Kunsthalle Malmö. Winterling has held solo exhibition in New York, Berlin, Vienne, St. Louis, San Francisco and, more recently, at the GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst in Bremen.