

CKTV

at Shanghai Biennale, Brooklyn Pavilion

10/2/12 — 12/31/12

Just sing as you want.

You're more than likely at a bar. It's someone's birthday or your best friend is getting married. Maybe it's a Wednesday night or a Saturday night, you may or may not have work in the morning. You've had a few gin and tonics or six beers or five daiquiris. You're in a big city or a small, working class town surrounded by a crowd of unfamiliar. No matter the how, why, or where, you find yourself browsing the laminated pages in the binder looking for the perfect song. The selection is so important. It's a social game. It's competitive. You want to appease the crowd while at the same time, sing something you know you can nail, something that reflects your personality, something that will make you shine, make you the "winner".

Cleopatra's, a collaborative curatorial team, is proud to introduce, CKTV, an immersive exhibition that brings together sound, video, performance, and installation. The presentation includes a dynamic roster of Brooklyn based and Brooklyn inspired artists that have all produced unique karaoke videos made to accompany a song of their choice. The project began as a short program of videos, initiated by artist, Chris Rice, that premiered at Santos Party House in April 2012. Impressed with the outcome, Cleopatra's collaborated with Rice to expand the program by commissioning additional videos made by artists whose practice reflected the ethos of the project. To push the engagement further, Cleopatra's has built a KTV (Chinese karaoke booth) to screen the finished videos in a full on participatory environment; available for use by all visitors to the exhibition.

What makes Karaoke such a viable platform for art production? In 2007, the French philosopher, Jacques Ranciere brought to light the problems of passivity amongst the spectator. There is no longer an adamant aesthetic or political engagement with the consumer (viewer). Ranciere noted the militant dictation being driven by cultural producers and the inactive, hierarchal problems in this equation. We are primarily being told what to think and how we should think it. Engagement is being diffused at the borders of interaction. This is a call not to turn spectators into actors (acting participants) but to acknowledge that any spectator already is an actor (of her own story). Karaoke becomes an emancipatory object under this manifesto. It both translates and accommodates. It establishes a social bond between the artist and the viewer. It eliminates the privileged position of authorship. It enacts generosity and exchange.

Karaoke is also a usable device for the artist in that it recognizes the radical differences between seriousness, automatism, and institutionalized prescriptions. The artists participating in CKTV utilize video and performance to reinterpret an already appropriated form of artistic intervention; karaoke versions of top 40 pop hits. Pop songs are a simulation of reality, a crystallization of standardizations and the foundation of the karaoke mechanism. The ease of recognition and empathetic qualities of said songs, makes karaoke a suitable medium for artistic interference.

Finally, your name is called. It's your turn to sing. You take the tequila shot from your co-workers hand then take the stage. The mic is beaming feedback sounds until your mouth makes contact.. "I made it through the wilderness... somehow I made it through.. "

Participating Artists:

Thomas Arsenault

HMMM by Gaia via MAS YSA

Carrick Bell

Xanadu by Olivia Newton-John and Electric Light Orchestra

David Berezin

On Your Mark Ready Set Let's Go! by anonymous

bffa3ae

uh duh yeah by various artists

Phillip Birch

Down in the Park by Gary Numan

BLANKO AND NOIRY [Frank Haines, Chris Kachulis and Reuben Lorch-Miller] *Falling in Love Again* by Marlene Dietrich

Charles Broskoski

96 Tears by Question Mark & the Mysterians

Christie Brown

In the Air Tonight by Phil Collins

Samuel Budin

"I Want You, I Need You, I Love You" by Elvis

Jay Buim Party in the USA by Miley Cyrus

Ashleigh Carraway and Luke Boggia

Kiss from a Rose by Seal

Nathan Saltmarsh Caswell

Ain't No Sunshine by Bill Withers

Mary Helena Clark and Latham Zearfoss

Love Is A Stranger by Eurythmics

Ned Colclough

Music Sounds Better With You by Stardust

Dan Cooper

Black Friday by Steely Dan

Emma Corral and Eliza Swann

Follow Me by Amanda Lear

Warren DeFever and Andrea Morici

Are you that somebody by Aaliyah

Kalika Farmer

Caroline by Neil Diamond

Chido Johnson and Dylan Spaysky

Soundtrack from Michael Jackson's *Smile*, Lyrics taken from
Charlie Chaplin's movie *Modern Time's* script

Ryan Foerster

Communication Breakdown by Roy Orbison

Daniele Frazier

Little Bird by Annie Lenox

Rochelle Goldberg

We Found Love by Rihanna

Bee Harris and Clara Dykstra

Blue Velvet by Bobby Vinton

Dmitri Hertz, Jacques Louis Vidal, and Brian Faucette

9 to 5 by Dolly Parton

Katie Hickman

Only girl in the world by Rihanna

Joel Holmberg

No One by Alicia Keys

Riley Hooker

Another One Bites the Dust (Panoramic mix) by Queen

Hunter Hunt-Hendrix

Thuggish Ruggish Bone by Bone Thugs-n-Harmony

Sanya Kantarovsky

Anytime by Brian Mcknight

Sameer Kapoor

Within You Without You by The Beatles

Joe Kay

Where *Everybody Knows Your Name* by Gary Portnoy

Richard Kern

Private Play by Wash N' Set

Kyle Knodell

I'm Real by Ja Rule and Jennifer Lopez

Lindsay Lawson

Werewolves of London by Warren Zevon

Maggie Lee

Boom Boom Boom by Vengaboys

Seung-Min Lee and Caitlin McKee

Summer Nights from the musical Grease

Kylie Lockwood and Jack Henry

We Will Rock You by Queen

Sara Magenheimer

Relax by Frankie goes to Hollywood

Jesse Malmed

Yesterday by The Beatles

Beat It by Michael Jackson

Carly Mark

Heartbreaker by Mariah Carey

Tommy Martinez and Jerstin Crosby

Hungry Eyes by Eric Carmen

Rachel Mason

White Rabbit by Jefferson Airplane

Zeljko McMullen

Sympathy for the Devil by The Rolling Stones

Andy Meerow and Reid Ramirez

Everybody Hurts by R.E.M

Merkx and Gwynne

Hey Joe Originally by Jimi Hendrix, cover by Soft Cell

Brett Milspaw

These Are Days by 10,000 Maniacs

NEW HUMANS [Howie Chen and Mika Tajima]

Discipline by Throbbing Gristle

Boru O'Brien O'Connell

Against All Odds by Phil Collins

Grear Patterson

More More More by Andrea True Connection

Annie Pearlman

I'm Every Woman by Whitney Houston

Jory Rabinovitz

Ramblin' Man by Hank Williams

Rachel Rampleman

Is That All There Is by Peggy Lee

Falling in Love Again by Marlene Dietrich

Rian Pickell

Outside by Staind

Chris Rice

Cat People (Putting Out Fire) by David Bowie

Where Eagles Dare by Misfits

Stephen Russel

Happy Birthday by anonymous

Ben Russell

Rock Me Amadeus by Falco

Jon Santos

Break My Stride by Matthew Wilder and Greg Prestopino

Saki Sato

Obsession by Animotion

Benjamin Schultz-Figueroa

Strangelove by Depeche Mode

Heaven is a Place on Earth by Belinda Carlisle

Tristan Shepherd

Condition of the Heart by Prince

Josh Slater

Wicked Game by Chris Isaak

Konrad Smoleneski

The end of the world by Foot Village

A.L. Steiner + Chicks on Speed [Melissa Logan, Alex Murray-Leslie, Kathi Glas, Anat Ben-David]

Typical Girls by The Slits

Scarlett Stephenson-Connolly

Crying by Roy Orbison

Jennifer Sullivan

Like A Virgin by Madonna

Andrew Sutherland

Mountain Song by Jane's Addiction

Brad Taormina and Vaughn Taormina

Boys of Summer by Don Henley

Stewart Uoo

Back In My Life by Alice DeeJay

Erika Wesserman

Eye of the Tiger by Survivor

Olivia Wyatt

Sweet Lullaby by Deep Forest

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