

WILD FRICTIONS

THE POLITICS
AND POETICS
OF INTER-
RUPTION

April 9–September 19, 2021

Wild Frictions

Attentive to the ways in which artists monitor, contemplate, and intervene in societies as they change, *Wild Frictions* brings together works that reflect some of the anxieties, disruptions, and tensions that arose or intensified during 2020. Using sculpture, text, video, sound, digital media, and performance, the artists in the exhibition apply strategies of interruption and obstruction to a critique of the grand narratives, oppressive systems, and unconscious, sometimes violent, organizing rituals that characterize everyday life. The presented works, though made predominantly prior to the pandemic and the social uprisings of the past year, resonate with feelings of disruption, alienation, and loss of control associated with shutdowns, quarantines, and economic “pauses.”

New commissions by **Félicia Atkinson** and **Nora Turato**, and existing works by **Nikita Gale**, **Steffani Jemison**, **Christine Sun Kim**, **Hanne Lippard**, **PressForPractice**, and **Laure Prouvost**, use spoken and written language to challenge linguistic convention. Through decontextualized speech and fragmented writing, “filler” words and punctuation devices — as well as free jazz and white noise — they present the interstitial as a zone from which new meaning may emerge. **Trisha Baga**, **Jesse Darling**, **Constant Dullaart**, **Kahlil Joseph**, and **Sable Elyse Smith** pepper real and virtual spaces with technological, algorithmic, and visual interventions that reveal the subtle forces of surveillance and oppression present in built and virtual environments. **Klara Lidén**, **keyon gaskin**, **Jesse Ly**, **Ouecha**, **Jimmy Robert**, and **Pilvi Takala** wield physical activity as a tool for disobedience and mischief making. They examine the ways in which the human body can be a tool for resisting societal norms and enacting alternative futures.

A special issue of the periodical *The Third Rail* offers the opportunity to engage with the exhibition’s themes in print and online. The publication features contributions by many of the participating artists, as well as newly commissioned texts by literary theorist Emily Apter (on the art of impasse), design polymath Prem Krishnamurthy (on “bumpiness”), and curator Legacy Russell (on digital virality and intimacy), among others. Visit the CAC front desk for a free copy or read online at thirdrailquarterly.org.

Organized by Amara Antilla, Senior Curator, Contemporary Arts Center and guest curator Sandra Teitge, Berlin.

Ask Yourself

- 1 A primary theme of this exhibition is *disruption*. How would you characterize the experience of viewing this exhibition in multiple, non-continuous areas of the building? Does the CAC's layout serve as a physical reminder of the theme?
- 2 Several artists in the exhibition use humor. What role can or does humor play in difficult situations?
- 3 Some artists in the exhibition make conscious use of miscommunication. When and how did you experience errors and unclear or partial information in the artworks? How do you usually respond to confusion or miscommunication in everyday life?
- 4 How do artists in the exhibition comment on the importance of questioning authority? Which "authorities" are they questioning? In what ways are disruptions sometimes positive?



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Poster design by Louise Borinski.



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