

FOXY PRODUCTION

LARS LAUMANN

February 19 - March 27, 2010

Opens February 19, 11 AM - 8 PM

Reception for the artist: March 5, 6-8 PM

Foxy Production presents LARS LAUMANN's inaugural New York solo exhibition. Laumann's videos and works on paper twist and tease fact and fiction into poetic narratives, ripe with coincidences and odd associations. Using both appropriated and original content, he portrays extraordinary characters as they negotiate the historical and social forces that bear upon them.

In the exhibition, Laumann combines videos and lithographs in a layered and playfully philosophical exploration of authorship and originality. He analyses both the drive to create and the drive to censor. His works use voice and language to wryly probe the possibilities of individual and collective agency.

Author and activist Helen Keller and the plagiarism controversy that followed the publication of her childhood short story *The Frost King* (1891) are central to Laumann's video *Kari & Knut*. Named after a Norwegian children's game, it tells the story of a rebellious Iranian student who struggles against the authority of her doctrinaire professor. She defends Keller's work and decries the effects of the plagiarism dispute upon Keller's creative output. Re-editing a post-Revolutionary Iranian drama based on Sallinger's *Franny and Zooey* with documentary footage of the denazification of Germany and sound by Swedish musician Dan-Ola Persson (who also created the music for Laumann's acclaimed *Berlinmuren*), Laumann spins a complex web of connections about the transmission and policing of ideas.

In the screen-based video *Duett (styrken i vår tro i en sang, i en sang)*, Laumann grapples with truth, fiction and memory: Donald Rumsfeld discusses "known knowns" and "unknown unknowns" in relation to Afghanistan, while Margaret Thatcher boldly defends the British sinking of the Argentine navy cruiser the General Belgrano. The original footage is reworked with Persson's music added, and then repeated within a section of a large plasma screen that has been positioned on its side.

Laumann presents two black-and-white lithographs - one a haiku, the other a limerick - that use a self-invented font of hand-drawn fingers. Without spacing, each character runs into the next, making an initial reading more like a decoding. Both works wittily and unnervingly relate recovered memories of alien abduction and physical violation. Laumann's conflation of letter and image gives his texts a pictorial dimension that intensifies their humorous yet deeply disturbing qualities.

LARS LAUMANN (Brønnøysund, Norway, 1975) studied at the Norwegian State Academy, Oslo, and the North Norwegian Art and Film School, Kabelvåg. Selected exhibitions include: Kunsthalle Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland (solo); Mediations Biennale, National Museum, Warsaw, Poland (both upcoming 2010); Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, Texas (solo); Marian Goodman Gallery, New York; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland; Museum Of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida; Maureen Paley, London (solo) (all 2009); 5th Berlin Biennale; Foxy Production, New York (both 2008); and White Columns, New York (2007).

His videos have been screened at Light Industry, Brooklyn, NY; the Institute of Contemporary Art, London; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, among other venues. His work has been featured in publications including *Freize*, *Art Monthly*, and *Artforum*. Lars Laumann is represented by Maureen Paley in London.

MoMA will present An Evening with Lars Laumann on May 10th, 2010.

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