

Martina Simeti

Conny Purtill

The Ground

Conny Purtill with Edgar Arceneaux, Taylor Davis, Jay Heikes, Nick Herman, Adam Horovitz, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Pierre Leguillon, Josiah McElheny, Todd Norsten, Matthew Ritchie, Erin Shirreff and Ricky Swallow

May 30 - July 20, 2024

Opening May 30, 6 - 9 pm

A collaboration with Adams and Ollman

The presentation is the seventh exhibition iteration of an ongoing project titled “The Ground,” the primary impulse of which is exchange. Purtill gives “grounds” (a support/surface on which to make a painting or drawing) to fellow artists as a gift. This has been the basis and ethos of Purtill’s artwork for the past two decades. He says of his project, “I make a ground with a specific person constantly in mind, which I then offer to them as a way to show I’ve dedicated time thinking about them. These are people I love. This is the purpose of the exchange.” More often than not, the person gifted the ground will choose to do something with it. And from time to time, exhibitions are composed with the resulting artworks, which the artists have chosen to return – or exchange – for the occasion.

At Martina Simeti, “The Ground” is installed in three galleries and includes thirteen kites, one painting, three drawings, and a levitation. In the main gallery will be eleven kites. Purtill gifted grounds – in this case, sheets of paper excised from antique books and stained with green tea – to each of the participating artists. Their drawings (composed in many mediums) are hung upon Purtill’s intricate, handmade bamboo constructions. Together, the paper and bamboo construction form what Purtill calls a “kite.” Although these kites are not made to fly as a traditional kite might, they are suspended in defiance of gravity, and flutter with the slightest movement of air.

The upper-level gallery will feature three drawings by Purtill. In the lower-level gallery, Purtill will hang a large painting by Jay Heikes on a makeshift theater in which a levitation will occur to open the show. The levitation is powered by a commissioned soundtrack by Adam Horovitz, and accompanied by two kites with drawings by Purtill.

Conny Purtill (b. 1969, Phoenix, AZ) is an artist and book designer who lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Purtill has exhibited most recently at Fondazione Giuliani, Rome; CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; Florence Loewy, Paris; Ecole D’art et de Design, Geneva; Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis; Vox Populi and Temple Gallery at Tyler School of Art, Temple University, both in Philadelphia. Select performances have been presented at Renwick Gallery, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and WIELS, Brussels. He is represented by Adams and Ollman.

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CONNY PURTILL

The Ground

30 May – 20 July 2024

1. Jay Heikes and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite, 2024, Graphite and oil on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
2. Todd Norsten and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite, 2024, Gouache on green tea stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
3. Jessica Jackson Hutchins and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (Directive), 2024, Chine Collé etching, photo gravure, with embroidery floss and collage on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
4. Pierre Leguillon and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite, 2024, printed fabric on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
5. Ricky Swallow and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (Mantis), 2024, Gouache and pencil, on green tea stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
6. Edgar Arcerneaux and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (Skinning the Mirror), 2024, Acrylic paint, mirrored glass, and silver nitrate on green tea stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
7. Matthew Ritchie and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (CP Angel), 2024, Ink on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
8. Nick Herman and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (Hecate. Hecate. Hecate), 2024, Pencil and ink on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 x 20,3 × 14 cm
9. Erin Shirreff and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite, 2024, Emulsion on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
10. Josiah McElheny and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (Sun Ra's Color Time [Blue Black over Blue and Purple Black over Red]), 2024, Colored pencil and graphite pencil on green tea-stained paper, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
11. Taylor Davis and Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite, 2024, Collage on green tea-stained paper, copper wire, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
12. Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (levitation), 2024, Graphite on excised page from "End Pages" by Nick Herman, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
13. Conny Purtill, The Ground: Kite (levitation), 2024, Graphite on excised page from "End Pages" by Nick Herman, with bamboo and string, 27,9 × 20,3 × 14 cm
14. Jay Heikes, Mother Sky, 2019, oil on stained canvas, 124 x 169 x 6,5 cm
15. Conny Purtill, The Ground: Landscape, 2024, Graphite on excised page from "End Pages" by Nick Herman, in artist's frame, 28,3 × 34,9 × 3,1 cm
16. Conny Purtill, The Ground Landscape, 2024, Grass and kite string on excised page from "End Pages" by Nick Herman, in artist's frame, 28,3 × 34,9 × 3,1 cm

