



KAYA

*Kaya V, Body Bags*

*Mixed Media (vinyl lasercut,  
customized belts, vinyl wire, epoxy,  
coins, oil on mylar, grommets,  
crystalclear, pigments)*

Meadow

PARAMOUNT RANCH 2

January 31st-1st, 2015

KAYA was conceived in 2010 upon the feared closing of the project space 179 Canal in New York. Artists Kerstin Brätsch and Debo Eilers turned their exhibition opening into a charity auction/ performance, producing works and auctioning them on site, all whilst their 13 year old muse, Kaya, performed on stage, either by playing guitar or editing the artists' work at her whim before it was auctioned. KAYA has subsequently become the personification of the collaborative work between the artists, with four following exhibitions KAYA II-IV, as well as this realization at Paramount Ranch. KAYA is not only a metaphorical, but physical avatar for the *Bodybag* works, where the sculpture (Eilers) and painting (Brätsch) of the two artists merge into large hybrid beings; body castings bagged and constrained by grab bars and metal belts. Occasionally the work fits together harmoniously, at other times the disconnect between artists is visualized by elements protruding in a nearly violent manner, materials they have accumulated over time working against each other whilst all still remaining part of the KAYA community. For that is what KAYA has become; beyond just the work of two artists the KAYA projects rely on the participation of their surrounding communities to thrive, with games, with auctions, with performances. This is what allows the work to practically reverberate with collective energy and break free of its shellacked casing and bondage-like restraints. The level of simultaneity incorporated into KAYA performances also enforces this informal, market-challenging structure. KAYA continues to pay homage to the market fetish with a distended gold coin created in conjunction with Europe's oldest mint; The Monnaie de Paris. Instead of with quiet ambivalence, KAYA approaches their commodification with a vociferous gong.