Galerie Mezzanin
Karin Handlbauer
Getreidemarkt 14/Eschenbachgasse
A-1010 Wien
T +43 1 526 43 56
F +43 1 526 91 87
office@galeriemezzanin.com
www.galeriemezzanin.com

August

Shannon Ebner
Adam Putnam
Rachelle Sawatsky

Curated by_Tyler Coburn

Opening: 10.10.2013, 19:00
Exhibition: 11.10.–14.11.2013

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August traces the social threads that comprise an artist's creative life. Eschewing an overarching curatorial logic, the exhibition centers on a series of dialogues highlighting the sympathies of the participants.

This project began as an exquisite corpse: I invited my former classmate Rachelle Sawatsky to propose an artist with whom she feels an affinity. Rachelle invited Shannon Ebner, our colleague from the University of California. Shannon, when given the same prompt, invited her longtime friend and former classmate Adam Putnam.

Writing on the theme of this year's curated by_ vienna, Eva Maria Stadler situates painting as "part of a discourse" that extends beyond both artist and artwork to become "comprehensible as a social process." August could be described as a portrait of this process, as the chain of invitations reveals influences and affiliations that far exceed disciplinary bounds.

In preparation for the exhibition, the artists convened for a weekend in August. Adam flew from New York to Los Angeles with a suitcase of photographs, initiating the first in a series of intensive studio visits with Shannon and Rachelle, whom he was meeting for the first time. This fruitful period is documented in a free reader that accompanies the exhibition, and in the artworks and architectures, which were selected and designed by us four. In Shannon's electric poetry, Rachelle's tactical expressivity and Adam's ever-unfinished architectures, desire is imbued with a critical potency shaped over years of conversation. Curating, in short, has also become a social process.

— *Tyler Coburn*

Tyler Coburn (b. 1983, New York City) is an artist and writer based in New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature from Yale University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Coburn's performances, sound works and installations have been presented at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; the Whitney Museum of American Art; Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp; CAC Vilnius; LA><ART, Los Angeles; and SculptureCenter, New York.

Shannon Ebner (b. 1971, New Jersey) lives and works in Los Angeles, where she is Associate Professor of Fine Arts Practice and head of the Photography Area at USC's Roski School of Fine Arts. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at MoMA/ PS1, The Hammer Museum and LA><ART, Los Angeles. Selected group exhibitions include *Ecstatic Alphabets/Heaps of Language*, MoMA, New York, the 54th International Venice Biennale; *The Spectacular of Vernacular*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Sixth Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin; the 2008 Whitney Biennial, New York; and *Learn to Read* at Tate Modern.

Adam Putnam (b. 1973, New York City) is an artist based in New York. His work has been included in various exhibitions internationally, from the 2008 Whitney Biennial and the 2nd Moscow Biennial to the 2008 Busan Biennial. Putnam has also exhibited at Art Statements, MoMA/PS1 and The Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo. Curatorial projects include an exhibition of the work of Martin Wong at P.P.O.W., New York and *Blow Both of Us* at Participant Inc., New York, co-curated by Shannon Ebner.

Rachelle Sawatsky (b. 1983, Richmond, British Columbia) lives and works in Los Angeles, where she recently received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Western Front Gallery, Vancouver and Or Gallery, Berlin; in the 2012 Wight Biennial, Los Angeles; and in group exhibitions at Night Gallery, Los Angeles, Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver, and Projectesd, Barcelona. Sawatsky's writing has appeared in *The Happy Hypocrite*, Art Papers and C Magazine.