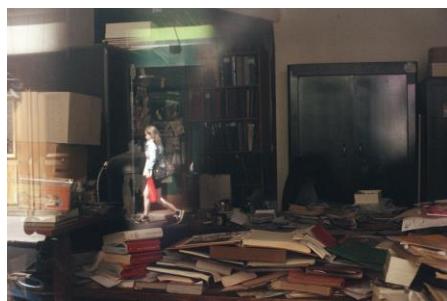


Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

118 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
www.icaphila.org

NEWS RELEASE



Moyra Davey, *Red Bag*, 2013, Digital C-print, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.



Moyra Davey, *Dédicace*, 2013, Digital C-print, tape, postage, ink, 12 x 18 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

MOYRA DAVEY: BURN THE DIARIES

SEPTEMBER 19–DECEMBER 28, 2014

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

PUBLIC RECEPTION: 6:30-9PM (FREE FOR ALL)

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH: 5PM (ICA MEMBERS AND DONORS ONLY)

PHILADELPHIA, PA

ICA presents a new body of work by Moyra Davey based on the artist's recent reading of Jean Genet. The act of reading has long been integral to Davey's work, which is full of images of books; however this is the first time Davey has ever made a book specifically for a gallery installation.

Moving between photography, writing, and film, Moyra Davey's highly personal and methodical work draws deeply on the form of the essay. Her art interprets and critiques her own experience as an artist through a generous frame of literary, philosophical, and cultural references, drawing as well on objects, memories, and even dust. Assembling a rich variety of texts, Davey uses them as the materials from which she constructs an almost romantic yet decisively biting point of view.

Technically an artist's book, *Burn the Diaries* is a modestly scaled paperback comprising two texts (one by the artist, the other by writer and translator Alison Strayer) and an array of photographs. The centerpiece of the gallery installation, the book is surrounded by photographs that have been folded and sent, like letters, through the mail. Tabs of colorful tape mark the unfolded prints, which are push-pinned to the walls. Davey's new thirty-two minute film, *My Saints*, is projected in an adjacent space (furnished with a comfortable couch). Structured around a series of interviews with friends and family members about their reading of a passage in Genet's *A Thief's Journal*, the film's underlying subject is the crime all artists commit in stealing time and experience to create their work.

In keeping with a whole history of women artists who have worked at home, the simple and straightforward installation is an abstraction of domestic space, as well as of Davey's own studio. This paring down focuses and concentrates our

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Moyra Davey, *Ruby Glass*, 2013, Digital C-print, tape, postage, ink, 12 x 18 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

experience as viewers, and helps make us readers of Davey's art.

This exhibition comes to Philadelphia from Vienna, where it was initiated by curator Matthias Michalka at MUMOK (Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig) in spring 2014. At ICA, the show is organized by Chief Curator Ingrid Schaffner. The installation is accompanied by the artist's book *Burn the Diaries* (a co-publication of ICA, MUMOK, and Dancing Foxes Press), as well as by a gallery supplement with an interview with the artist by Michalka and an essay by Schaffner (\$27).

Trained as a photographer, Moyra Davey (b. 1958 Toronto, Canada; lives in New York), emerged in the 1990s within a context of artists including Julie Ault, Zoe Leonard, and Josiah McElheny whose work moves fluidly between documentary and discursive modes. Major exhibitions and publications featuring essays by Davey include *Speaker Receiver* (2010, Kunsthalle Basel, with catalogue contributions by George Baker, Bill Horrigan, and Chris Kraus) and *Long Life Cool White* (2008, Fogg Art Museum, curated by Helen Molesworth). Throughout the 1990s her work was exhibited at Colin de Land's maverick New York gallery American Fine Arts, and she was a founding member of the pioneering Lower East Side collective Orchard Gallery. A graduate of Concordia University, Montreal; the University of California, San Diego; and the Whitney Independent Study Program, Davey is represented by Murray Guy, New York; Goodwater Gallery, Toronto; and greeengrassi, London.

Moyra Davey: Burn the Diaries is co-organized by the Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig WIEN, Vienna, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesday 11am–8pm
Thursday and Friday, 11am–6pm
Saturday and Sunday, 11am–5pm

Admission is FREE every day.

Free admission to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored by the Amanda (C'95) and Glenn Fuhrman (W'87/WG'88) Fund.