Karin Schneider (American/ Brazilian) is a formalist artist, filmmaker and writer, living and working in Harlem. Founding member of Union Gaucha Productions (UGP/1998), an artist run, experimental film company designed to collaborate with people from different artistic disciplines. Schneider was also founding member of Orchard gallery, a cooperatively organized exhibition and event space in New York's Lower East Side (2005 to 2008). In 2010, she cofounded the space Cage to facilitate other kinds of encounters among people from different disciplines. For this exhibition Schneider contributed a text that explores her artistic practice in relationship to transitional space and the artwork of Lygia Clarke.

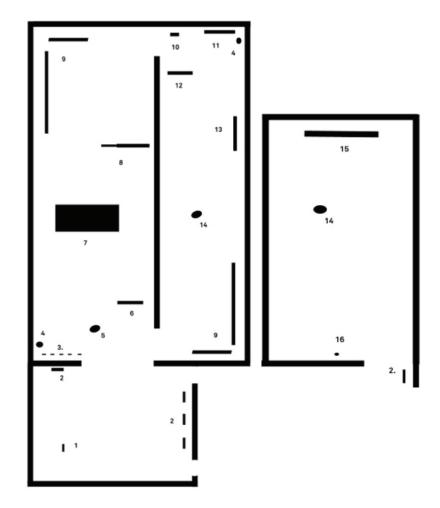
Sergei Tcherepnin (American) transforms every day objects (benches, boxes, and mirrors) into audio speakers — a strategy that accentuates the listening experience. The sleight of hand calls attention to both the materiality and complication of the listening experience with seductive and violent aspects of sound. Central to this practice is the use of transducers, mechanism that convert signals and waves into vibrations. "Stereo Ear Tones" (2013) is comprised of two security mirrors that transmit a composition on a 23 minutes loop. The track includes a chiming and twinkling sound which is interrupted by two minutes of a shrill sound activating a third tone within the inner ear (which is amplified by cupping the ear with the hand). Thus, the viewer (and listener's) reception completes the work. Hung in opposite corners of the space, the mirrors reflect the surrounding installation: the Darboven, and Chamberlain appear in one mirror, their surfaces receiving and refracting the emitted composition. The work functions formally in terms of a reciprocity with the whole exhibition.

Swiss Institute

Descartes' Daughter September 20 – November 3, 2013

Malin Arnell, Miriam Cahn, John Chamberlain, Hanne Darboven, Melanie Gilligan, Rochelle Goldberg, Nicolàs Guagnini/Jeff Preiss, Rachel Harrison, Lucas Knipscher, Jason Loebs, Ulrike Müller, Pamela Rosenkranz, Karin Schneider, Sergei Tcherepnin, Charline von Heyl

Curated by Piper Marshall



Lobby

- Karin Schneider
 Transitional line, 2013
 Book, edition of 5
 8.5 x 11 inches
 Courtesy the artist
- Ulrike Müller
 Mirrors, 2013
 Vitreous enamel on steel
 15.5 x 12 inches, each
 Courtesy the artist and Callicoon Fine Arts, NY

Main Gallery

- Jason Loebs
 Anthropomemoria, 2013
 5 Computer batteries with anti-counterfeiting ink
 9 x 3 x 1 inches, each
 Courtesy the artist and Essex Street Gallery, New York
- Sergei Tcherepnin
 Stereo Ear Tone Mirrors, 2013
 2 security mirrors, transducers, amplifier, iPod
 Each 11.8 x 11.8 x 3.4 inches
 Courtesy the artist and Murray Guy, New York
- Lucas Knipscher
 What Nice Feet I Have #1, 2013
 Cast porcelain, papier mâché, newspaper, foam, hardware 20 x 1 inches, length variable
 Courtesy the artist and Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles
- 6. Melanie Gilligan
 Self Capital, Episodes 1 3, 2009
 Each episode 8 minutes, looped
 Courtesy the artist
- 7. John Chamberlain
 Untitled, 2007
 Polyeurethane foam and nylon covering
 37 x 158.75 x 82 inches
 Courtesy the artist and Friedman Benda, New York
- 8. Rochelle Goldberg
 the space between two mirrors, 2013
 Steel and wood
 Dimensions variable
 Courtesy the artist

Lucas Knipscher (American) pilfers, peddles, and borrows from already existing images (primarily from newspapers or cartoons), creating a work that is suspended somewhere between homage and appropriation. "What Nice Feet I Have", which is a long, papier mâché pendulum circulating back and forth, nearly sweeping the ground, all the while reacting to kinetics independently of the viewer. Knipscher's throwaway material and steadily moving form is an object anchored by an inverted body (look up to see the feet planed on the ceiling). This artwork endeavors to mark time and movement passing in space.

Jason Loebs (American) addresses production value in the context of art making in his self reflective works. Anthropomeoria is a wall-piece comprised of five black MacBook batteries marked with glistening security ink, the failsafe material used to print currency. The name 'Anthropomemoria' is a reference to Yves Klein's body prints titled Anthropometry which roughly translates to "the process or science of measuring the human." The shimmering fingerprints create a tension between the laptop as mobile software that assists in creative production as well as the legal tools implemented to secure authorship. The technological component and endless build-up of data is measured against the bodily standard.

Ulrike Müller (Austrian) uses formal abstraction to play with the logic of representation, combining abstract forms that harness perceptual process. The slick, reflective surface of the enamel paintings combined with the formal play of shapes challenge similar readings. Müller begins with a series of drawings, a combination of geometric shapes that eventually lead to the creation of formal propositions. Through the push-and-pull of positive and negative space, these new shapes are applied with ground enamel and pigment to metal plates. These small-scale paintings operate like a semiotic mirror, a repository for individual projection which reflects subjective interpretation and social codes.

Pamela Rosenkranz (Swiss) counters the amplification of the artist's ego by underlining the constituent material qualities that constitute both work of art and human being. In doing so, Rosenkranz addresses the subjectivity of the artist: the relationship between the self and production. The large format of "Because They Tried To Bore Holes" addresses human scale, recalling the body. In fact, the tacky Ilford photo paper — neither wet nor completely dry — adheres to the acrylic, sliding and curling as the artist applies pressure to the surface. The trace of physical impact becomes the focus: the impressions, irregularity, and depth between the paper are all informed by Rosenkranz's actions.

Nicolàs Guagnini (Argentinian)/Jeff Preiss (American) collaborate in Discharge, a work in which Preiss captures Guagnini undergoing Reichean therapy. As the filmmaker, Preiss uses both synaptic cuts and a palindrome visual structure (flipping left to right) to imitate the actual therapeutic process where the subject constantly moves his eyes while lying down. The activity is thought to assist in liberating the patient from every day repression — and speaks to Guagnini's artistic concern with the devastating nature of mundane middle class "everyday-ness." While the entire process — be it visually distressing — may seem strictly psychosomatic, Reich rooted his theories in class difference. Social codings are thus embedded within the body and the sight of the individual, which the therapeutic method seeks to liberate.

Rachel Harrison (American) combines systems of consumer culture and abstraction in her work where ready-made materials such as vacuums are paired with sleek minimalist forms. The result is combination that pushes material and value systems to the brink. For the Perth Amboy photography series, Harrison spent two Sundays documenting a suburban New Jersey home where an apparition of the Virgin Mary had reportedly emerged on a window pane. The foggy vision enticed thousands of pilgrims to the site to touch, grasp, behold and be near to the perceived religious countenance. The photograph shows the 'iconic' window and the handprints left behind by the touch of devotees. Its composition and subject matter formally recall Dan Graham's series Homes for America, cropped to show the rectilinear vinyl siding Harrison's work, however, opens a view onto the drive and power of human belief, the inescapable notion of the mundane and the ambivalence toward it.

Charline von Heyl (German) elicits a concatenation of questions regarding painting and representation in her unyielding and vital composition. Her works are not abstractions of already occurring images, rather they are propositions meant to stand alone. The use of positive and negative space along with gestural markings compound the relationship of figure to ground, foreground to background, and subject to object. This presents a new spatial arrangement — a relationship to perspective which is unfixed. As von Heyl explains, "It is about the feeling that a painting, or any work of art, can give — when you can't stop looking because there is something that you want to find out, that you want to understand... Good paintings have this tantalizing quality. And once you turn around, you absolutely cannot recapture them. They leave a hole in the mind, a longing." Her paintings contain a semiotic possibility, a virtual territory where our mind can slide over and stumble into the unknown.

- 9. Hanne Darboven
 Urzeit/ Uhrzeit, Fisch und Vogel, Ia, Ib", 1986
 Collage, offset, ball pen on paper, photography
 1x 60 panels, 1x 62 panels, each signed and dated
 Each sheet 19.7 x 27.5 inches
 Courtesy Hanne Darboven Stiftung,
 Hamburg | Hanne Darboven Foundation, Hamburg
- 10. Rachel Harrison
 Untitled (Perth Amboy), 2001
 Chromogenic print
 14.5 x 19.5 inches (image size)
 Courtesy the artist and Greene Naftali, New York
- 11. Pamela Rosenkranz Because They Try to Bore Holes (Gaining Tension), 2012 Blank Ilford photo paper, mounting glue, plexiglass 80.125 x 56 x 1.5 inches Courtesy the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York
- 12. Nicolàs Guagnini / Jeff Preiss
 Discharge, 2005/2006
 16mm transferred to DVD
 9minutes
 Courtesy the artists
- 13. Charline von Heyl
 My Little Doppelgänger Poltergeist Soul, 2013
 Acrylic on linen
 62 x 60 inches
 Courtesy the artist and Petzel Gallery, New York
- 14. Lucas Knipscher What Nice Feet I Have #2, 2013 Cast porcelain, paper mache, newspaper, foam, hardware 20 x 1 inches, length variable Courtesy the artist and Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles

Lower Level Gallery

- Miriam Cahn
 L.I.S. strat. orte bergsee, 1986
 Chalk on paper
 108 x 124 inches
 Courtesy the artist and Meyer Riegger Gallery, Berlin
- 16. Rochelle Goldberg
 Tan of Cuna, 2012
 Chromed tin
 3 inch diameter
 Courtesy the artist

Malin Arnell (Swedish) adopts the tradition of Fluxus, in her cross disciplinary interventions. Fluxus is an attitude toward art-making which seeks to fuse cultural, political, and social revolutions, all while working with ignoble materials. Fluxus artworks are not prescriptive and are often open to interpretation as they combine people, objects, sounds, images, and texts to provoke new meaning. Drawing from this tradition, Arnell deploys performance, sculpture, poetry, and public art. For Descartes' Daughter, Arnell has given special consideration to transitional space, the ability of the individual to be self aware in relationship to group aims. The artist creates a durational intervention beginning on Tuesday, October 29, culminating in an action on Thursday, October 31 at 7pm.

Miriam Cahn (Swiss) creates large-scale drawings by dragging charcoal across the paper surface. While this performative methodology is fast and violent at times, it is also contained by the breadth of the artists' own reach. In L.I.S. strat. Orte bergsee, Cahn depicts a bird's eye view of a turbulent lake, a veritable void where the subject has been decentered and replaced by the image created from the motion of the body.

John Chamberlain (American, 1927 – 2011) studied and taught at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. During his tenure at Black Mountain, he was in conversation with poets including Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan, and Charles Olson. They formed part of a group of mid-20th century American avant-garde poets. It was in Chamberlain's work with language where fortuitous combinations first became of interest to him. By the 1960s, Chamberlain concentrated on constructing sculptures of repurposed metal (mainly automobile parts) that were "fit" and welded in place. By 1967, the artist became concerned that popular readings of car crashes and Detroit had eclipsed his intention to alter perspective. As a result, he began to employ new materials and practices, employing every day materials, habits and the forms yielded by haphazard actions — reflecting his interest in human procedure. The artist stated; "[E]verybody makes sculptures every day, whether in the way they wad up a newspaper or throw the towel over the rack or the way they wad up the toilet paper." This piece, produced much later (2007) is constructed from foam. pliable and amorphous raw material that is easily shaped. Formally reminiscent of a couch, the sculpture is a surface where the trace of the body has been left behind.

Hanne Darboven (German, 1941 – 2009) grew up and studied in Hamburg in post-war Germany. In the 1960s, she came to the United States where she engaged with artists, theorists, writers, and critics including John Cage, Lucy Lippard and Sol Lewitt. Darboven's Urzeit/Uhrzeit, Fisch und Vogel, la, lb documents a complex understanding of time, which is subdivided into work hours and then portioned into days. Her drawings employ the administrative language of the laborer (time cards, compulsively archived and covered with a repetition of numbers of script). This conceit counters romantic readings of the artist. The script and mathematics are rhythmically paired with two motifs in opposite corners of the gallery (a fisherman's trophy and a preserved and framed bird); keepsakes powered by the human sentiment. Taxonomy and taxidermy collide and a circularity arises out of the human efforts to charge these objects, and the object's power to evoke sensation.

Melanie Gilligan (Canadian) Self-capital is a three-part video, in which the global economy is personified undergoing radical psychological treatment after her recent meltdown. Filmed entirely at the Institute for Contemporary Art, London, one actress plays every role: therapist and patient, customer and cashier. As a patient in therapy, she simultaneously represents both the capitalist system as a whole and an individual this capitalist social body as she progresses through a series of "unorthodox body-oriented techniques", suggesting that the effects of the crisis such as job losses and governmental austerity measures are felt on a material and corporeal level, but also that contemporary psychological and political subjects are today increasingly reduced to, and treated in terms of, their bodily materiality.

Rochelle Goldberg (Canadian) derives her sculptural works from an engagement with virtual experience in relationship to the mind and body. The objects are informed by her written work on human perception and the technological experience as rooted in biology, where vision and perception are irregular, thus unfixed. The sculpture in Descartes' Daughter, entitled "the space between two mirrors" demonstrates this concern. Here Goldberg explores how technology structures the visual field like the mise en abyme (i.e. placed into abyss). The wood and steel construction is formed in human scale with the steel delineating a framework — a demarcation of space that encourages potential. The extended tip of the sculpture, marked in silver, notes the space that slips beyond reach as well as the pivot point where the wood can no longer hold itself upright. While not in motion, the object alludes to a sliding action, within itself and out again.