

MMX SHOW V SCREENING PROGRAM CHICAGO – BERLIN EXCHANGE: DEFENESTRATION curated by ERIC FLEISCHAUER

The city of Chicago was built on swampland, then destroyed by a devastating fire, and quickly rebuilt atop its own ashes. These imperfect conditions gave rise to a certain spirit that lingers above the city, and initiated a culture of alternative strategies including advancements in engineering and infrastructure that have been adapted and implemented by others around the world – Chicago raised the world's first skyscraper. // While the eight videos presented here utilize divergent aesthetics and techniques, there is a unifying presence that transcends geography, form, or content. This presence is absence. In a minimal and precise fashion, these artists eschew "the cinematic" and adapt the medium to fit their conceptual frameworks. Various incarnations of lacking and longing motivate, comprise, inspire, and inform the work in this program. // What is contained within the frame is only a trace of what-has-been, but it works to tap into the metaphysical and communicate these larger, complicated, intangible emotions and ideas that are looming outside the frame. It is this direct relationship to their subjects that works to augment the discrete, draw out the ephemeral, and contain the ethereal. By engaging in the impossible task of grasping the intangible, the imminent failure of these videos are transcended by way of sincerity.

- 5:05 *The Jettisoned / Yoni Goldstein + Meredith Zielke / 2010 / HD*  
The Jettisoned references the tradition of the Tableau Vivant in painting and photography as it maps representations of identity and the bodily – specifically sites for ritual healing and the notion of collective, conditional, and porous anatomies. However, Unlike the delineated moral cartographies of traditional tableaux in painting and photography, the composition of The Jettisoned present anachronistic and subjectivized composite maps of identity, bodily mechanism, and abject recognition. >><http://www.standingpoint.org>
- 5:15 *Somewhere only we know/ Jesse McLean / 2009 / digital video*  
What can a face reveal? Balanced between composure and collapse, individuals anxiously await their fate. *Somewhere only we know* is part two of Bearing Witness Trilogy which is concerned with how we, as a culture, watch ourselves, especially in moments of great emotional significance.
- 4:45 *The Fallen / Steve Reinke / 2006 / digital video*  
The American military casualties of the second Gulf War for whom photographs were available as of November 7th 2006 arranged by attractiveness.
- 10:30 *Black and White Trypps Number Four / Ben Russell / 2008 / 16mm transferred to video*  
"Divisible stand up comedy from beyond the grave, adjust your set, rabbits ears tuned to the Bardo Plane."  
– Mark McElhatten, Rotterdam International Film Festival  
Using a 35mm strip of motion picture slug featuring the recently deceased American comedian Richard Pryor, this extended Rorschach assault on the eyes moves out of a flickering chaos created by incompatible film gauges into a punchline involving historically incompatible racial stereotypes.
- 5:35 *</3 / Chelsea Welch / 2010 / HDV*  
</3 suggests an intimate look at the life of a virginal teeny-bopper whose naiveté leads to neurotic obsession with a chimera, and despondency. In an eerie testament to the persuasive power of Pop, this project was conceived as a critique of popular culture but eventually grew into an experience of adapting and understanding one realm of foreign cultural territory. By finding one's voice through that of another, we are reminded of the confusion and difficulty of orienting oneself in today's mutable and virtual landscape.
- 6:15 *Between the Sheets / Warren Cockerham/ 2008 / digital video*  
A hidden cell phone camera documents the trek of a box of sheets as it travels through a Wal-mart Distribution Center. Part roller coaster ride, part Marxist critique: this cat and mouse game was shot on the final day of ten years of service by associate 2569.
- 4:45 *On the Edge of Utterance and Being Articulate: A Brief Introduction to the "Poetics of Space"/ Todd Simeone/ 2008/ HD*  
This is the first in a series of video "essays" in which repurposed texts are graphically translated, recited, and then edited to the "edges of utterance" and the space between words. This particular translation uses the Introduction to Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*, seemingly as further play with language, but more substantially editing out his short but ruminative explanation of the search for "the poetic image." As it staggers through purposeful communication and the boundaries of legibility, this video highlights the essentially arbitrary relationship between words and their meanings while creating a language of its own comprised of breaths, pauses and punctuation.
- 15:45 *Anne Frank's chestnut tree (Amsterdam, 2008) / Jason Lazarus / 2008 / HDV*  
"...from my favourite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver, and at the seagulls and other birds as they glide on the wind.....as long as this exists, I thought, and I may live to see it, this sunshine, the cloudless sky, while this lasts I cannot be unhappy..."  
– Anne Frank, February 23rd, 1944