

parlour

Between the Acts
November 21-22, 2009

Parlour No. 10, *Between The Acts*, is curated by Jennifer Dudley and features the work of Lara Allen, Timothy Hull, Selena Kimball, Mary Reid Kelley, Jessica Slaven, Spirit Tours and Steven Thompson. It is hosted by Megha Gupta, Alison Duffy and Robert Rhee in their Brooklyn home. The works presented in this evening of domestic theater hover between deception and revelation. *Between the Acts*, the title of Virginia Woolf's final novel, refers to an illusion that is broken but not severed, allowing for an undetermined experience. Woolf's story describes a single afternoon in which a small community gathers at a private home to perform a pageant. Through narrative multiplicity, the novel's characters are recognizable as both themselves and as the roles they play. The pageant compresses vast periods of the past in a historical drama under Woolf's constant foretelling of impending war that the future will bring. One character in the novel, Lucy Swithin, increases her "bounds of the moment by flights into past or future." Woolf's amalgamation of the past and future, however, displaces the present.

By performing transformative illusions while simultaneously conceding the methods by which those illusions are sustained, the artists of Parlour's tenth installation also conjure an in-between of time and place, actor and character. Messages from the past are transmitted, the future is divined, secrets are confessed, and perceptions are contradicted as the viewer is cast as both participant and spectator.

Kimball's towering Rorschach inkblots playfully channel a collective unconscious through the accumulated psychometric graffiti of participants, and an alternate or hallucinatory world is promised in Thompson's archive of original and recreated materials. Kelley's rubbings present the text of war memorials in altered form, becoming revenants. Slaven's works on paper are game boards for collaborative occult activity. A collection of mysteries take the tenuous form that their source material's fleeting, dubious powers would suggest in Allen's delicate chalk drawings of a library of mystical books or Hull's twin white-on-white oil portraits of Tutankhamen and Anubis. Spirit Tours' lo-fi diorama of an earlier work, Spirit Tours: Future 86, a monumental outdoor web-based fortunetelling machine, mimes it's own history as it spells your future with the push of a foamy thumb-button. The opening will also include performances by Allen and Slaven.

Through the games and spectacles of these parlor tricks, this exhibition embraces the transience of an evening and the strategies of conspicuous illusion to engage what is between.

Brooklyn-based artist **Lara Allen's** work includes painting, performance, film, video and site-specific multi-media installation. She received an MFA in painting from Yale in 2005 and worked at Historic Sound Recordings in the Yale University Library. Before moving east, Allen lived in San Francisco where she collaborated with several other Mission District artists, playing music and helping establish an alternative exhibition space within cultural landmark Adobe Books.

Timothy Hull earned a BA from New York University in 2002 and an MFA from the Parsons School of Design in 2006. He has had solo exhibitions in New York at Freight+Volume Gallery and the Klaus Von Nichtssaged Gallery and at Taylor de Cordoba in Los Angeles and Brown Project

Space in Milan, Italy. His work has been critically reviewed in publications such as Artforum, Flash Art and the San Francisco Chronicle. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn and Warwick, New York.

Selena Kimball works with collage, film, painting and photography. Her work has been shown in the US at the Soap Factory, A.I.R. gallery, 3rd Ward, Sideshow gallery, and internationally at The Center for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Yautepec gallery, Mexico City, and Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin. Her published work can be seen in the collage novel *The Sleeping Life of Leonora de La Cruz*, Agnieszka Taborska and Selena Kimball (New York: Midmarch Arts Press, 2007, Paris: Édition Interférences, 2007), as well as this winters edition of *Rojo Contemporary Arts Magazine* (Barcelona). Kimball lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Mary Reid Kelley studied Art and Women's Studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and recently received her MFA in Painting from Yale University. An interest in language, literature and history informs her work, which includes video, animation, performance, and painting. In June of 2008, Mary traveled to France and Belgium to research and visit the graves of 43 Yale students who were killed in the First World War. She also participated in a fellowship at the Beinecke Rare Books library at Yale, where she researched writers and artists involved in both World War One and the 20th-century avant-gardes.

Jessica Slaven is an artist and writer currently based in Yonkers, NY. She is a graduate of The School of The Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her work has been shown in NYC at Brooklyn Fireproof, David Krut Projects, and the Alona Kagan Gallery. She has published in *Anthem*, *Whitewall*, and *Paper Monument* where she is an editor.

Spirit Tours was conceived as a collaboration between Brooklyn-based artists Siebren Versteeg and Dave Hardy in the summer of 2004 at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Siebren Versteeg's exhibitions include *En Masse* at the Art Institute of Boston, *Zero is the Center* at Max Protetch, NYC, *Press Enter to Exit* at Rhona Hoffan Gallery, Chicago, IL and the Hirshorn Museum's *The Cinema Effect: Illusion, Reality, and the Moving Image* in Washington, DC. Dave Hardy's exhibitions include *It's grey, it's grey* at Art in General, *lower case* at La mama Galleria, *Un Balance* curated by Katie Rashid at Jack Shainman Gallery in NYC; and *Greater New York 2005* at PS1/MOMA and *Make It Now* at the Sculpture Center in LIC Queens.

Originally from South Carolina, **Steven Thompson** has earned 5 degrees from 3 Universities and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. He is represented by Rove in London and New York. Thompson has shown in Miami-Basel, Finland, and Italy, and in New York at Schachter conTEMPorary, the Armory International Exhibition, and the SCOPE Art Show. Recently, he taught a graduate course in special topics at Parsons School of Art and Design, The New School for Social Research; and he is a Teaching Artist at the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons Art Center. Thompson is a General Member of the Fluorescent Mineral Society.

The curator, Jennifer **Dudley** is an artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She received a BFA from the University of Georgia, an MFA from Yale University, attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and is co-organizer of *Ad Hoc Vox*, an on-going roving series of discussions and events that addresses a wide range of issues in contemporary art. She previously participated in *Parlour No. 5*, *Life Goes On*, in May of this year and her work will be featured in a three-person exhibition at NOMA Gallery, San Francisco, in early 2010.

Between the Acts opens Saturday, November 21st from 7 - 10 PM, and can be viewed on Sunday, November 22nd from 12 - 6 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an

appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com or visit www.parlourdoor.com.

Parlour is a nomadic exhibition space started in 2008 that presents weekend-long exhibitions in different homes throughout New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in a unique and dynamic setting. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Leslie additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College.

directors
ciara gilmartin leslie rosa-stumpf
www.parlourdoor.com