

MELISSA DUBBIN & AARON S. DAVIDSON

Six degrees of freedom

untilthen is happy to announce Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson's inaugural exhibition with the gallery, and the first exhibition in our new gallery space. For their solo exhibition *Six degrees of freedom*, they will present new photographic, video and sculptural works that engage computing, geology and methods of forming sound. All works in the exhibition have been produced in 2016/2017.



Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson, research for *Six degrees of freedom*, 2017. Silver nitrate, copper from audio cables, copper nitrate, salt, water, paper

Images of surplus electronics speculate on future mining landscapes containing gold, silver, copper and rare earth minerals stockpiled for extraction. Machines for accelerating the effects of time share the space, tumbling materials designed to erode the objects they come in contact with, making audible the act of their transformation.

The record of repetitive gestures of automated labor leave their mark on garments constructed to protect robots. Elsewhere, a small robotic arm draws with iron dust. The robot has been choreographed by a child, the research for which can be seen in the video presented downstairs. As the child and robot draw together, the domesticity of the scene gives rise to questions of meaning deriving from abstract form and how we acquire and transfer knowledge.

The works in the exhibition explore 'informed' or 'informationally enriched' materials, such as metals used in data infrastructures or those that react with light to produce images. Stones exhibiting remanence, or the record of the earth's magnetic field, simultaneously attract and corrupt thousands of bits of information previously stored on iron toroids used in early computer memory. A series of machine-made porcelain and earthenware ceramics tune the space, resonating its acoustic signatures like ancient urns in Greek theaters.

Six degrees of freedom: exhibition from Sept. 9th – Oct. 7th 2017

untilthen – 41 boulevard Magenta – 75010 - Paris

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Dubbin & Davidson's work "addresses processes of transmission and reception, interference and transference"¹ often seeking to materialize immaterial, inaccessible or ephemeral states of matter. They work across media and their practice reflects their research interests, resulting in works addressing topics as varied as gems mined by ants, loudspeaker interiors and sculpting with smoke. They have co-authored a body of works producing forms, objects, images and experiences, equally incorporating the mediums of photography, video, sound, performance, sculpture and artists books since they began working together in 1998.

Dubbin and Davidson were recently chosen as the first artists to participate in the newly created artist-in-residence program of the Pinault Collection (2016). Recent solo exhibitions include Poétique des sciences, Le Fresnoy, Tourcoing, France (2017), Nobody Shoots a Broken Horn in Early Spring at Campoli Presti, Paris (2016); Treize, Paris (2014); Audio Visual Arts (AVA), New York, NY (2013). Recent group exhibitions include Esma/Listen at Beirut Art Center (2016); Bitter Sweet Symphony, Untilthen, Paris (2016), Paris, Co-Workers, Bétonsalon, Paris (2015); Some Artists' Artists at Marian Goodman Gallery, New York (2014); The Artist's Institute, New York, NY (2014); Art of Its Own Making at The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis, MI (2014); The String and the Mirror, Lisa Cooley, New York, NY (2013); Alchemical, Steven Kasher Gallery, New York, NY (2013); and Sound Spill, Zabudowicz Collection, New York, NY (2013).

They have exhibited internationally at museums, galleries, and art centers including SculptureCenter, Long Island City, NY; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; Overgaden, Copenhagen, Denmark; Exit Art, New York, NY; New Museum, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, California; 2004 Gwangju Biennale, Korea; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Melissa Dubbin (b.1976, Las Cruces, New Mexico) is a graduate of the Masters Program of Experimentation in Art and Politics (SPEAP) at Sciences Po, Paris, founded & directed by Bruno Latour, where she was a fellow from 2013-2014. Dubbin received her BA in Moving Image Arts from the College of Santa Fe (1998).

Aaron S. Davidson (b. 1971, Madison, Wisconsin) is a graduate of the MFA program at the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College (Photography, 2015). Davidson received a BA in Studio Arts from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (1999) where he studied photography and electronic music. Davidson also teaches at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York in the Foundation Arts Department.

Dubbin and Davidson live and work in Brooklyn, New York.

¹ Barikin, Amelia. Sound Fossils and Arche-Fossils: Towards a Mineral Ontology of Contemporary Art, 2017.