

“Fiona Connor, Sydney de Jong, Audrey Wollen”
Fiona Connor, Sydney de Jong, Audrey Wollen

29 October — 10 December, 2016
Opening: 29 October, 5-8 PM

Press Release #4:

The techniques on view, articulated as such by each participating artist, correspond to three entangled limbs of contemporary art: the architectural (structural), the art historical (discursive), and the domestic (functional), parted out in a way that could yield attention to the procedural operations of viewership that chaperone our contemplative experience and supply us with a prescribed set of attendant tendencies (this focus is further demonstrated by the multiple press releases commissioned for the show of which this is one). To be clear, this isn't meant to disregard the adaptive possibilities inherent in a relationship to brittle infrastructure—after all, we aren't dissimilar to other urban omnivores that have adapted their foraging behaviors to be able to exploit more anthropogenic food sources—but to offer a crude simplification for the sake of projection onto the objects in question.

Some thoughts about use: The ceramic works of Sydney de Jong, which will be “in use” by the staff of the gallery during the run of the exhibition, provide an explicit expression of the utility of the objects themselves, throwing a wrench in a contemporary definition of art in so far as we understand that art garners value by depriving the (practical) use of objects for more reflective concerns. This enlightened principle (autonomy, et al) is demonstrated by the theatrical negation of (practical) use of Fiona Connor's architectural interventions. I'm unsure how Audrey Wollen's video fits into this dichotomy...but by appropriating the activity of judgment traditionally assigned to us as viewers with the interpretation of another artwork, the notion of “use” becomes more difficult to separate from the historical condition of one's personhood.

—Bedros Yeretzian

Minerva, 4/111 Macleay Street
Potts Point, Sydney, NSW 2011
Australia +61 (2) 9357 3697
gallery@minervasydney.com
minervasydney.com



For media enquiries please contact the gallery at gallery@minervasydney.com