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San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art Opens Two New Exhibitions

Susan O'Malley: You Are Exactly Where You Need To Be: Part II

Gideon Rubin: Memory goes as far as this morning

February 20 – May 22, 2016

Opening Reception: Sunday, February 28, 2016, 2 – 4PM

Open to the Public

San Jose, CA – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art will open two new exhibitions on February 20, 2016. Running through May 22, *Susan O'Malley: You Are Exactly Where You Need To Be: Part II*, a tribute to the late Bay Area artist, is comprised of social practice videos and text-based posters. *Gideon Rubin: Memory goes as far as this morning*, features a group of paintings completed by the London-based artist during artist residencies in China and Israel.

Social practice artist Susan O'Malley (1976-2015) grounded her work in inspiration, optimism, and positivity using simple and recognizable tools of engagement to invite participants into an art experience. Primarily text-based, her art took the form of prints, posters, buttons, large-scale vinyl signage and billboards, as well as interventions recorded on video. Her close friend and collaborator Christina Amini described her as “an advocate of the great power of human connection and an expert at distilling life into its fundamental element: love.”

The ICA will present a series of videos produced in 2004-2005, including *How To Be an Artist-in-Residence* in which O'Malley appointed herself an artist-in-residence in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose. O'Malley infuses her quixotic sense of humor and subtly ironic sense of the world in these short silent videos filmed outdoors in San Jose neighborhoods and in Nashville, TN. She employs shadow play, physical activity, and playfulness to deliver her point of view. Among the videos in the exhibition are *Three Chances to Make the Best Bubble Ever*, *Nashville Arms*, *Nashville Shadows* and *You are a Column* from her project *Your Body is the Architecture*. To view her videos, click here: <https://vimeo.com/user9375492>

The ICA's front windows will feature two large-scale prints from O'Malley's 2014 project entitled *Advice From My 80-Year-Old Self*. For this project, O'Malley worked with volunteers from a neighborhood youth organization in Berkeley to interview people in the area, asking them “What advice would your 80-year-old self give you?” The project culminated in an exhibition at Kala Art Institute in March 2015, two public art projects in Berkeley and a book published by Chronicle Books in January 2016. The books will be available for purchase at the ICA during the run of the exhibition.

Born and raised in San Jose, Susan O'Malley earned a BA in Urban Studies with a focus on Community Organizations from Stanford University and an MFA in Social Practices from California College of the Arts. Her work, with collaborator Leah Rosenberg, was featured in *Bay Area Now 7* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She also exhibited at numerous alternative spaces and institutions, including Contemporary Art Museum (Houston, TX), the Parthenon Museum (Nashville, TN), and Montalvo Art Center. Her work has been exhibited as public projects in San Francisco, New York, and London, as well as in other cities around the U.S., Poland and Denmark.

The ICA's presentation is dedicated to Susan O'Malley, a former colleague and dear friend. O'Malley died unexpectedly on February 25, 2015 in the last week of her pregnancy with twin girls, Lucy and Reyna, who also did not survive.

RELATED PROGRAMS:

Guided Meditation in Tribute to Susan O'Malley

Thursday, February 25, 12pm-1pm

Free and open to the public.

Guided meditation led by YogaSource founder Kim Allen; participants should bring a mat or pillow.

ICA Live!: Beth Stephens: In an Instant

April 1, 7pm

Free and open to the public

The renowned Bay Area artist will perform a spoken word piece in honor of Susan O'Malley.

Gideon Rubin: Memory goes as far as this morning (embed image)

Gideon Rubin Talk

Tuesday, February 23, 5-6pm

San Jose State University, Art Department, Room 133

Free and open to the public

****Gideon Rubin will be in attendance at the opening reception on February 28 and will sign books from 2-3pm.** Rubin's book *Gideon Rubin* will be available for purchase.

Gideon Rubin: Memory goes as far as this morning marks London-based artist Gideon Rubin's first solo show in a public art space in the U.S. The work on view at the ICA is the result of two artist residencies – one in Tel Aviv, Israel and one in Shenzhen, China.

In both locations, Israeli-born Rubin worked on pages taken from local newspapers and popular magazines, painting over some photographs and leaving others untouched, blotting out some text and leaving other passages intact. Rubin assumes the role of a cultural tourist trying to find some general internal code, rather than trace his own personal story. Out of space and out of time, his anonymous figures become the characters we can all recognize in ourselves – familiar and familial.

Through his work, Rubin presents a challenge to the viewer – an invitation to view with doubt and uncertainty the presumed objectivity of photography and the media. His painterly intrusions into these publications serve to undermine their journalistic veracity and bring into question society's acceptance of their claims to truth.

Gideon Rubin (b.1973) is an Israeli artist based in London. He received his BFA from School of Visual Arts in New York and MFA from Slade School of Art in London. Rubin has had numerous international solo exhibitions, the most recent include *Delivering Newspapers*, ROKEBY London (2015); *On the Road*, Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, and *Last Year's Man*, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris (2013); and *Brief Encounters*, Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne (2012).

Selected group exhibitions include *Disturbing Innocence*, Flag Art Foundation, New York (2014); *Daily Memories*, Klosterhaus, Magdeburg, Germany (2014); *To Have a Voice*, Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow (2012); *Kunstlerkinder*, Kunsthalle Emden, Germany (2012); *Lines Made By Walking*, Haifa Museum of Art; and *Facelook*, Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2011); *Beijing Biennale*, National Art Museum, China (2009).

In 2014, Gideon Rubin received the 'Shifting Foundation' grant and an Outset artist residency in Tel Aviv in 2013.

Gideon Rubin is represented by Galerie Karsten Greve Paris, Cologne, St Moritz; ROKEBY, London; Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco; and Alon Segev Gallery, Tel Aviv.

Susan O'Malley: You Are Exactly Where You Need to Be: Part II is supported in part by David Pace and Diane Jonte-Pace.

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