

## **Sights and Sounds of Stage and Screen**

**David Bayus & Ben Bigelow**

June 6-July 6 6, 2014

Opening reception: Friday, June 6, 7-11pm

While the word "performative" has become art jargon, misused to romanticize works which vaguely invoke performance, recent works by David Bayus and Ben Bigelow have successfully combined aspects of performance with painting, sculpture, and video installation. "The stage," in various incarnations, is inherent to each work.

Both artists use hybrid art practices and complex digital processes to create tenuous pictorial spaces, existing somewhere between the real and hyperreal. The aesthetics may be sleek, but verisimilitude and technical prowess serve more to agitate than they do to impress. And most importantly, they are funny, imbued with a humor wholly unexpected from such works.

Ben Bigelow has made a new suite of work influenced by pies, politics, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union Address. In a new video, Bigelow performs as a ne'er-do-well politician and schizophrenic deviant, bombarded with pies hurled by an unseen attacker. Bigelow's projected image is life-sized, intentionally filmed to look as if he is performing within an extension of the gallery itself.

Accompanying the video are related works involving photography, sculpture, and 8 gallons of maraschino cherries.

David Bayus, inspired by Paul Klee's description of drawing as "taking a line for a walk," relates the drawn line to a verbal line from a staged performance. Sculpting various anthropomorphic forms by hand, Bayus then photographs these arrangements with backdrop papers, colored gels, and studio lighting before digitally stitching hundreds of composite photographs together. Similar compositions are made entirely within 3D modeling programs. Bayus will also debut new ceramics made by "Dina J. Blazer," a pseudonym for a collaboration with Bay Area artist Brynda Glazier.

**Ben Bigelow** (b. 1985 in Los Angeles) received his MFA from Stanford University in 2013 and a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 2008. This year he is a fellow at the Kala Art Institute in Berkeley, where he is participating in two group shows opening at the end of May. In August he has a solo show at Pro Arts Gallery in Oakland as part of the 2x2 Solos program. Past exhibitions include group shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia and the Harlem Factory Fest in New York City. Ben was an artist-in-residence at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, PA, ARCE Artist Residency, WI, and The Wassaic Project, NY. He currently lectures in the Department of Art & Art History at Stanford University, and this fall will join the faculty at the Massachusetts College of Art & Design in Boston as an Assistant Professor. Ben Bigelow's works for this exhibition were created with generous support from the Kala Art Institute's Fellowship Program.

**David Bayus** (b. 1982 in Johnson City, TN) received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2010 and a BFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2005. He is a founding member of the BASEMENT Art Collective located in San Francisco's Mission district. This year he was an artist in residence at Colpa Press, resulting in the publication of *Stroke*

Vol. 1 which debuted at the 2014 LA Art Book Fair. David has exhibited extensively in the Bay Area, most recently with group shows at The Popular Workshop and Alter Space in San Francisco. He will participate in a three-person show this August at FIELD contemporary in Vancouver.

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