

Persuasive Light

Margaret Tedesco

December 9-18, 2017

Opening reception: Saturday, December 9, 7-11pm

First performance: Saturday, December 9, 8:30pm

Second performance: Monday, December 18, 8:30pm /
gallery open 7-10pm

"Every film is a foreign film."

— *Atom Egoyan and Ian Balfour*

Persuasive Light, a solo exhibition and series of performances by Margaret Tedesco, examines the apparatus and language of film. For Tedesco, who routinely watches two films per day, the meaning of apparatus is twofold. It encompasses everything from the emotional to the mechanical — the conceptual and ideological structure of a film as well as the literal equipment used to produce and screen a film.

Tedesco's new series of photographic film stills, "A/B Roll," are rolled to reveal a central image on each cylindrical print. Each work portrays a single figure with their back to the viewer, gazing in toward the frame. Another body of work serves as a foil — a series of "portraits" who return the gaze, confronting viewers with locked stares (a complicit arrangement) as they peer out of the frame.

Tedesco's performances are a continuation of a body of work which has spanned twenty plus years and was last performed at SFMOMA in 2012 for the exhibition Stage Presence. For City Limits, Tedesco will "re-narrate" films with the sound off using subtitles and closed captions as a primary source. Her role as translator,

however didactic at first, both scrutinizes the (impossible) objectivity of translation and reveals film as a highly subjective platform in even its most straightforward moments. For Tedesco, this cognitive divide between sound and vision, as well as the psychological space which develops within these gaps, is what makes film so persuasive as a medium.

Margaret Tedesco, an artist, curator, writer and former dancer and choreographer, works across multiple disciplines. She has presented and collaborated with visual and performance artists, writers, and filmmakers for more than twenty-five years. She has been based in San Francisco since 1988. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally at venues such as SFMOMA, YBCA, The Lab, New Langton Arts, Southern Exposure, SFCamerawork, the SFAI Walter and McBean Galleries, Artists' Television Access (ATA), The Luggage Store; SFArts Commission Gallery, SFCinematheque, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, Right Window, David Cunningham Projects, and NOMA Gallery, among others.

For seven years Tedesco was a curatorial member of the now historic New Langton Arts in San Francisco. In 2007 she founded [2nd floor projects], an artist run exhibition and publishing space in San Francisco.

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