

*Animation and Video
Works curated by
Katie Armstrong*

**Greg Barth
Matt Brown
Jake Fried
David O'Reilly
Sean Pecknold
Julia Pott
Celia Rwolson-Hall
Shishi Yamazaki**



EIGEN + ART Lab

14.2. - 23.3.2013

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EIGEN + ART Lab
February 14 – March 23, 2013
Opening: 14. Februar, 5 - 9 p.m.

"Bridging the gap between the seemingly endless, chaotic abyss of the Internet and the established gallery scene", (Katie Armstrong) the current exhibition at EIGEN + ART Lab 'Animation and Video Work' curated by Katie Armstrong features a selection of films plucked strictly from the world wide web. The nine artists on view present studies of 21st century living through a personal — at times very critical — lens, walking the fine line between edginess, melancholy, sincerity, provocation, humor and the absurd. The exhibition is running from February 14 until March 23, 2013.

"As a child that grew up in the age of the Internet, I have always led what I consider to be a dual life, with one foot in the digital world and one in the physical world. In my own studio practice as well as when I'm filling the role of curator, I think I gravitate toward video work because the medium straddles both worlds beautifully. Projected or displayed on a monitor, videos can fill a gallery space with image and sound, but they are also easy to present and share online, allowing a work to transcend geographical restrictions with the capability to reach an almost infinite audience. In maneuvering between the physical world and digital world, we are able to find a place that is poetic, poignant, and above all, human." (Katie Armstrong)

Katie Armstrong (Born 1988 in Maryland, USA) uses traditional hand-drawn animation techniques to explore the interaction between popular culture and personal experience, creating a dialogue between internal and external worlds. In her works she mainly uses animation, collage and drawings. She lives and works in New York City.

Her latest video work *I thought of Frida Kahlo* illustrates a journal entry written and narrated by R. Leonard Miller, a man living in London whom Armstrong knows only through the Internet. In this animation, a train traveler relates his observations about a fellow passenger, who reminds him of Frida Kahlo. "Similar to working with the lyrics of pop songs, working with the Frida text was an exercise in climbing into unknown territory and swimming around until I could animate my way out of it. Because most of my other work is focused on presenting the world from a woman's perspective, it was important for me to wander around inside a man's psyche. I was drawn to this text in particular because of the universality of the subject" (Katie Armstrong)

Greg Barth (Born 1981 in Geneva, Switzerland) is an award winning creative director and artist based in London. Influenced by the existentialist and surrealist movement and inspired by social-political and economic events from around the world, *Essays On Reality* focuses on our visions, obsessions, and flaws as humans in the first world.

Matty Brown (Born 1985 in California, USA) creates moving portraits of life around him, building the mundane and exhilarating alike into deeply emotional stories. His work has been presented at the Royal Albert Hall and featured in The New York Times. In his video *Dreaming It(aly)*, the artist is travelling through the Basilicata (South-Italy) and shows colourful impressions of landscape and people.

Jake Fried (Born 1984 in Massachusetts, USA), primarily known for his paintings, is currently working on a series of hand-drawn, animated short films or "moving paintings." In his animation video *Waiting Room* a black background is filling up rapidly with white lines, objects and figures. He lives and works in Boston.

David O'Reilly (Born 1985 in Kilkenny, Ireland) identifies as the worlds greatest animator. His very darkly satirical piece, *The External World* presents a menagerie of characters in seemingly funny yet bleak situations. He is combing morbid scenes and provocative symbols with colorful comic figures showing their abyss - all the while assuring us with a wink, "Don't worry, it's just animation, it has no real effect on people." The artist lives in Los Angeles, California.

Sean Pecknold (Born 1981 in Washington, USA) is a director, animator and photographer based in Los Angeles, California. He has created stop-motion visuals for bands such as The Walkmen, Here We Go Magic, Fleet Foxes, Grizzly Bear and Beach House, as well as client work for BBC Knowledge, The New York Times Magazine, and National Geographic.

Julia Pott (Born 1986 in London, UK) is a British animator and illustrator based in Brooklyn, New York. She employs surreal, awkward animated creatures to act out her inner turmoil. *Belly* is a coming of age story of a young elephant who must grow up, despite his better judgement.

Celia Rowson-Hall (Born 1984 in Virginia, USA) is a New York based filmmaker, choreographer, and award-winning performer whose work displays an innate predilection for the body. In *The Audition*, Celia tries out for a menial role of "clipboard woman" in an upcoming production. Dedicated to her craft, the actress is willing to do whatever it takes to land the job.

Shishi Yamazaki (Born 1989 in Tokyo) loves to dance, but she is too shy to do it in public. Instead, she uses hand-drawn rotoscoping techniques to capture her own movements and turn them into rhythmic animations.



