

Arcadia Missa ñ

Ann Hirsch

Jill Off

Opening 17th May, 6-9pm

Exhibition Runs 18th May - 10th June

Gallery Open Wednesday - Saturday 12-5pm

When we wake, our dreams often feel strange. Connections between seemingly disparate things strike us as nonsensical. And yet, these very “dreamlike” qualities, in which the familiar is made unfamiliar, can also paradoxically clarify our own desires or anxieties. Through video, large drawings, and site-specific wall works, Jill Off, explores this insight, focusing on sexuality and the body.

In her new video series *The Treachery of Images*, Hirsch has overlaid pornography with animated imagery inspired by the canon of classical surrealism, such as ants, clocks, and lions. The result defamiliarises the porn, removing it from the realm of sexual excitation or provocation. It allows the viewer to see porn, in Hirsch’s terms, “for what it really is”—an aching awkward, at times humorous, at times terrifying performance of power relations and desire.

Accompanying these videos are subtly surreal portraits from an ongoing series of drawings on fabrics. Here Hirsch presents figures that appear seductive yet timid, aware yet naïve—these are people for whom sex is both endlessly available and increasingly mysterious. In Hirsch’s rendering, the viewer isn’t cued to cast judgment, only to empathise, perhaps even to see themselves.

Finally, the artist presents a series of wall drawings produced using the surrealist technique of automatic drawing in order to embellish and extend these themes, subconsciously pushing against the edges of how the artist herself constructs many of the characters in her performance work, with a particular focus on the dynamics of power in relationships.

Ann Hirsch is a video and performance artist who examines the influence of technology on popular culture and gender. Her immersive research has included becoming a YouTube “cwebbrity” with over two million video views and an appearance as a contestant on *Frank the Entertainer...In a Basement Affair* on Vh1. She was awarded a Rhizome commission for her two-person play *Playground* which debuted at the New Museum and was premiered by South London Gallery at Goldsmiths College. Recent solo shows include MIT List Visual Arts Center, Steve Turner, Los Angeles, and the New Museum’s online project space *First Look*. She is a 2017 Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grantee.

www.arcdiamissa.com

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Artworks (Clockwise from left)

Ann Hirsch

The Bad Wife

2017

Crayon mural

Dimensions variable

Ann Hirsch

Aaron

2017

3D Fabric Paint on vinyl

122 x 177 cm

Ann Hirsch

Ulu's Pants

2017

Digital video

3 minutes 26 Seconds

Ann Hirsch

Ulu's Treachery of Images, Andalusian Dog

2017

Digital video

11 minutes 33 seconds

Ann Hirsch

Aryn

2017

Fabric marker on crushed velvet

186 x 127 cm

Ann Hirsch

Treachery of Images, Rousseau's Massage

2017

Digital video

9 minutes 50 seconds

Ann Hirsch

Treachery of Images, The Persistence of Fucking

2017

Digital video

3 minutes 40 seconds

Ann Hirsch

Erin

Fabric marker on crushed velvet

137 x 206 cm

Ann Hirsch

Irma's injection

2017

Digital video

3 minutes 42 seconds