



'The Garden of Forking Paths' 28 May–18 July 2009

Eric Bell & Kristoffer Frick
The Infinite Library (Daniel Gustav Cramer & Haris Epaminonda)
Leslie Hewitt & Matt Keegan
huber.huber
Nashashibi/Skaer

Curated by Latitudes | www.LTTDS.org

The Garden of Forking Paths brings together the work of five artist-duos to consider duality, simultaneity, saturation and proliferation. The exhibition pursues, on the one hand, the implications of two individuals working together as a single author-function and, on the other, operates alongside artwork concerned with the reproducibility of images. In part a hermeneutical maze – itself curated and hosted by duos (Latitudes and MAISTERRAVALBUENA, respectively) **The Garden of Forking Paths** highlights a condition where decisions and imagery are at least twice mediated.

The exhibition takes its title from the 1941 short story by Jorge Luis Borges which centres on an apparently unfathomable novel and a mysterious labyrinth which are revealed to be one and the same. Written as if a statement by a double agent, this dense mystery tale proposes reality as a profusion of divergent alternatives and dimensions, a saturation of all possible outcomes.

The duos of the exhibition are each composed of different personal and professional dynamics – the artists are variously exclusive collaborators, related by birth, occasional accomplices, couples in life, and so on. Distinct from both generalised collaborative practice and the notion of the singular artistic genius, the duos' model of creative production implies a constant state of questioning and a mistrust of consistency that is nevertheless a formalised partnership. Comprising works using editorial, photographic, sculptural, procedural, collage and appropriation techniques, **The Garden of Forking Paths** is concerned with such conditions in the context of the synthesis, modulation and reuse of images over time.

Eric Bell & Kristoffer Frick present two works which affirm the fundamentally illusory nature of photography. 'Untitled' (2007) is a diptych of apparently the same scene, with images presented side-by-side as if a game of 'spot the difference' or a stereoscopic pair. What seems to be a flock of geese flying in front of a building is in fact a public sculpture in a shopping centre in Toronto created by the Canadian artist Michael Snow, perhaps better known for his structuralist film 'Wavelength' (1966). The duo's 'The pleasure of moving from place to place' (2008) comprises a projection of a singularly seductive image, a close-up of luminescent foliage.

Eric Bell (1985, St. Catharines, Canada) & **Kristoffer Frick** (1985, Nürtingen, Germany) work exclusively together. They are currently living in Frankfurt am Main, studying in the class of Willem de Rooij at the Städelschule. Recent solo exhibitions include: 'Fields seen apart', Hermes und der Pfau, Stuttgart (2008) and 'No Soldiers in the Scenery', Schaufenster, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2008).



'The Infinite Library' (2007–ongoing), two books from which are presented here, is an expanding, seemingly arbitrary archive by **Daniel Gustav Cramer & Haris Epaminonda** inspired in part by the writings of Borges. Pages from various sumptuous publications – mostly German coffee-table books from the dawn of colour printing in 1950s and 1960s – have been broken apart and rebound, as well as being overprinted, to create a potentially endless series of new volumes. 'Book 7' includes a guide to cacti, and 'Book 11' an obscured photographic primer. Following the demonstration of the books during the exhibition's opening, different pages will be displayed on each day.

Daniel Gustav Cramer (1975 Düsseldorf, Germany) & **Haris Epaminonda** (1980 Nicosia, Cyprus) work as a duo as well as individually. Cramer and Epaminonda met while studying Printmaking, Royal College of Art, London (2001–3). They live and work in Berlin, Germany. Exhibitions as a duo include: 'The Infinite Library Book #16', ARCO Solo projects with Rodeo, Istanbul (2009); 'The Infinite Library Book #14', BolteLang, Zürich, Nada, Miami (2008); 'Playtime', Betonsalon, Paris (2008). **Cramer's** recent solo shows include: Vera Cortes, Lisbon, Portugal (2009 and 2007); Domobaal, London (2007, 2006 and 2004); Galeria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy (2006). **Epaminonda's** recent solo shows include: Rodeo gallery, Istanbul (forthcoming 2009); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden (2009); Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (2008); Present/Future solo statements, Artissima 14, Turin (2008); Cyprus Pavilion, 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice (2007).

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Leslie Hewitt & Matt Keegan's 'CMYK Floral' (2007) consists of the presentation of weekly monochromatic flower arrangements. The bouquets' colours correspond in sequence with the inks used in four colour printing – Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Key (Black). Reflecting on the mechanical reproduction of images through floristry in terms of decay and preservation, the work commemorates the 'trick' of visual perception which allows halftones to translate the spectrum of reality onto printed pages.

Leslie Hewitt (1977 Saint Albans, New York, USA) & **Matt Keegan** (1976 Manhasset, New York, USA) are "individual artists who on occasion find that a joint effort is optimum", having both collaborated with others artists and groups. They live and work in New York, USA. Collaborative exhibitions include: 'Alabama', Office Baroque Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium (2007) and 'From You to Me and Back Again', Wallspace Gallery, New York (2006). **Hewitt's** recent solo shows include: New Photography, Museum of Modern Art, New York (forthcoming 2009); D'Amelio Terras, New York (2009). **Keegan's** recent solo shows include: D'Amelio Terras, New York (2007 and 2009); Anna Helwing Gallery, Los Angeles (2008).

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A selection of **huber.huber's** monochromatic series 'dark grounds' (2007-8) repurposes photographic print media through cutting, cropping and collage. The juxtaposition of, for example, photojournalism or wildlife studies replicates the dislocation so crucial to Surrealism and offers a portentous and uncertain wilderness. Insects, minerals, fungi, desolate landscapes and other untethered signifiers similarly appear in seven collages from the companion series 'Mikrouniversum und andere kleine Systeme IV' (Micro universe and other small systems IV) (2009) which will be shown in sequence through the successive weeks of the exhibition.

huber.huber are twins **Markus and Reto Huber** (1975 Münsterlingen, Switzerland). They have worked together as huber.huber since 2005 and live and work in Zurich, Switzerland. They studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Zurich (2002–5). Recent solo exhibitions include: Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano (2009); Galerie Reinhard Hauff, Stuttgart (2008); Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus (2008); Suzie Q Projects, Zurich (2007); White Space/Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Zurich (2005).



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Nashashibi/Skaer present eighteen photographs from the installation 'Pygmalion Workshop' (2008) inspired by the myth of Pygmalion in which he sculpts an ivory figure which is brought to life by Aphrodite to become his lover. Through references to, among other things, a representation of a funeral procession by the ancient Greek ceramics painter Exekias, as well as Matisse's designs for the vestments worn by the priests of the Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence, the duo explore the ability of art to transform and to be renewed – to adapt and readapt through use, time and media.

Nashashibi / Skaer are **Rosalind Nashashibi** (1973 Croydon, UK) & **Lucy Skaer** (1975 Cambridge, UK) who live and work in London, and work as a duo as well as individually. They began their collaboration in 2005. Dual exhibitions include: doggerfisher, Edinburgh (forthcoming 2009); Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland (2009); Art Now, Tate Britain, London (2008); Berlin Biennale 5, Berlin (2008); CAC Bretigny, France (2008); Spike Island, Bristol (2007). **Nashashibi's** recent solo shows include: Institute of Contemporary Art, London (forthcoming 2009); Stuttgart Kunstlerhaus, Stuttgart (2009); Presentation House, Vancouver (2008); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2007). **Skaer's** recent solo shows include: Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (forthcoming 2009); The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (2008); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2008); doggerfisher, Edinburgh (2004).

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Latitudes is a Barcelona-based curatorial office founded in 2005 by Max Andrews and Mariana Cánepa Luna.

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