

frosch & portmann

George Jenne Spooky Understands

frosch&portmann is pleased to present *Spooky Understands*, George Jenne's second solo exhibition with the gallery.

In Jenne's show, the gothic and the humorous are intertwined in two high definition videos. During the feature attraction, „Spooky Understands“, an eight year old guardian angel reveals to us - in a discrete whisper – her infatuation with her subject: a failed man whose guilt is causing him to spin out of control. Separately, Jenne himself, donning a Vietnam era military helmet, smoking cigarettes and eating pickles, spells out the origins of his own creative pathologies in a second video titled „Preamble“.

In the aftermath of these videos, the residue of their creation forms a sculpture, the perfect little amalgam of unconsidered parts. It is Jenne's own naked logic, not meant to escape the confines of the studio but asserted with inveterate care.

Jenne transforms the gallery into a landscape of singularly haunting vision. The multisensory installation offers the sensation of having the narrator whisper directly in the viewer's ear. A poltergeist is in the room, but her rumblings are subdued. She speaks in a child's whisper but something is slightly off. The voice behind her adorable enthusiasm and dainty pitch sounds for a moment like that of a man.

“He feels silly. He senses me. A flutter. The smell of burning toast. The sensation is intolerable and he longs for a stiff drink, a cigarette and a taste of Strange. I long for Cheetos.”

Video, text and sculpture converge into a single voice that spans multiple characters, places and narrative modes. Disparate realities merge and character becomes enmeshed with the artist. The minute is monumental, the intimate is cosmic. Solid material revises audible words while moving pictures illuminate inanimate objects. A published text, available at the gallery, expands the tale beyond face value and a latent image materializes further. Resolution for those involved seems imminent, but as with any obsession, it never manifests. It is clear that the ghost is still in the room.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, George Jenne lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and Chapel Hill, NC. He received his B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and his M.F.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

His essay, “Big Bird Made Me Watch,” will be published in the June issue of the Brooklyn Rail.

May 30 – July 6, 2013

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, noon – 6pm