

WALLTEXT

Now Here is also Nowhere

Part I: October 27, 2012 – January 6, 2013

“Good luck and believe me, dearest Doc - it's better to look at the sky than live there. Such an empty place; so vague. Just a country where the thunder goes and things disappear.”

— Truman Capote, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

Now Here is also Nowhere is a two-part meditation and non-linear account of how--in making artworks about ideas and intangible concepts-- artists continually question and destabilize the nature of the art object, as well as challenge art historical categories and medium specificity.

The international and multi-generational exhibition includes many works that are “performative”, that is, that require participation or activation by the viewer, while others discretely examine the physicality of the body, both in its relation to the construction of forms and/or as a generator of knowledge.

The play of words in the title refers to the fact that in making and experiencing works of art, both artists and viewers are thrust into a state of extreme presence; and although, in modern society we privilege the idea of linear narratives and specific outcomes, artists like the ones included in the exhibition favor a state of open-endedness where artworks remain contingent and meanings are not fixed. This is the nowhere that the exhibition addresses, a place where unknowing is constantly celebrated.

The artworks in *Now Here is also Nowhere* are ephemeral, immaterial, or are deceptively diaphanous; many of them are the result of orchestrated private and/or public actions that remain incomplete. The dialogs and juxtapositions in the exhibition rather than trying to generate true or false answers, seek to highlight the immense potential of contemporary art to be meaningful rather than decipherable.

The first installment of the exhibition features work by Francis Alÿs, John Baldessari, Mike Bidlo, Pierre Bismuth, Karl Blossfeldt, Marcel Broodthaers, Stefan Brüggenmann, Luis Camnitzer, Frank Capra, John Divola, Paul Elliman, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Tom Friedman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Rachel Harrison, Paul Ramirez Jonas, Kimsooja, Jiří Kovanda, Louise Lawler, Mark Lombardi, Jill Magid, Ján Mančuška, Christian Marclay, Robert Motherwell, Roman Ondák, Max Ophüls, Yvonne Rainer, Ranjani Shettar, Santiago Sierra, Sue Tompkins, Franz Erhard Walther, and Francesca Woodman.

Now Here is also Nowhere is curated by Luis Croquer, Deputy Director of Art and Education with assistance from Merith Bennett, Senior Curatorial Associate. The exhibition is made possible with generous support from 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax, ArtsFund, The Boeing Company, and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.