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New project by Shannon Ebner based on the notion of collision opens at Palazzo Ruspoli

Mar 19, 2014

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ROME.- Fondazione Memmo announces Auto Body Collision, an exhibition by the American artist, Shannon Ebner curated by Cloe Perrone. Auto Body Collision presents a new project based on the notion of collision - on isolated incidents in which two or more moving bodies exert force on each other. The exhibition is the result of the artist's Roman residency at Palazzo Ruspoli, historical venue of the foundation.

The exhibition opens March, 13th and will be on view until June, 27th 2014 at Palazzo Ruspoli. Admission is free.

Shannon Ebner's work exists at the boundaries of photography and sculpture, architecture and image, seeingreading and writing. For Auto Body Collision, the artist writes a photographic sentence in long form throughout the Palazzo Ruspoli's exhibition spaces. For Ebner, the photographic sentence is a way of writing that makes use of the material of images and the material of language in order to produce a system of language which exacts itself in the spatialized form of exhibition.



Shannon Ebner, Auto Body Collision Series, 2014. Epson print, 127 x 83.3 cm / 50 x 32.8 in. Copyright the artist, courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London, Wallspace, New York, Altman Siegal, San Francisco, Kaufmann Repetto, Milan.

Ebner's text for Auto Body Collision is crafted from the vernacular language of 'auto body collision centers', places where engines with bodies (automobiles) are brought for repair following collisions. The text utilizes terminology found in advertising copy as a new vehicle for expression: 'Alignment (ALLINEAMENTO), speed (VELOCITÀ, SVELTEZZA, TEMPO DI APERTURA) & suspension (SOSPENSIONE), exhaust systems and large frame straightening for delicate exotic repairs' are all services provided by collision centers worldwide, including Super Auto Collision Inc, American Collision Inc, People Collision Shop Inc, Belle Isle Collision, Motor City Auto & Collision, Four Way Collision & Rstprng, Maxx Collision, Onyx Collision, Italia Collision, Xclusive Collision, King Collision, Knockers Collision, Marx's Collision, 3 D Collision, Luxury Collision, Campus Collision, Checker Collision, Kruiise Collision, Six Mile Collision, Spectrum Collision, Uni-body Collision, Federal Collision.

Influenced by her recent residency in Rome, the project locates its 'first collision' in the Eternal City in order to bring new readings to the meaning of recuperation, re-assemblage and loss. Ebner photographed junkyards on Rome's GRA (Grande Raccordo

Anulare) or "great ring road" on the outskirts of the city, in a bid to exit the beauty and decadence of the city's ancient sites for the graveyards and oil fields of the imagination. For the exhibition Ebner will show photographs from the GRA alongside video, large scale letters and discarded language parts, in what will be the first iteration of a long term project. For Auto Body Collision, Ebner turns the mechanics of reproduction and destruction into an urgent mode of address.

Shannon Ebner (b. 1971, New Jersey) lives and works in Los Angeles. She holds a BA from Bard College and an MFA from Yale University School of Art. Recent exhibitions include the Hammer Museum (2011), PS1 MoMA (2007) and group exhibitions such as Things Words and Consequences, Moscow Museum of Modern Art (2012), Ecstatic Alphabets/Heaps of Language, MoMA, New York (2012), ILLUMInations, 54th Venice Biennale, Venice (2011), The Spectacular of Vernacular, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2011), 6th Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art, Berlin (2010) and the Whitney Biennial, New York (2008). Ebner's work is also included in numerous public collections such as The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Guggenheim Museum, New York, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel, among others. Upcoming projects and exhibitions include Kaufmann Repetto, Milan, The High Line, NY and a solo exhibition at North Miami MOCA (2015).

Since 1990, Fondazione Memmo has been organizing exhibitions of ancient art. Its aim is to connect young people and the wider public to the art world by introducing them to the masterpieces from the most varied civilizations and times, through the dissemination, preservation and restoration of artworks, by supporting the research, and by organizing, directly or indirectly, conferences, seminars and exhibitions in collaboration with museums, universities and public and private companies. Fondazione Memmo - Arte Contemporanea is a project initiated by Fabiana Marengi Vaselli e Anna d'Amelio in 2012 which introduces a new exhibition program dedicated to contemporary art. This is the third exhibition of the contemporary art program, following the solo shows of Sara VanDerBeek (October / November 2012) and Sterling Ruby (May / September 2013).

During the period of the exhibition, Oneway kids will organize free creative workshops for children aged 3 to 10 years. The workshops are open by appointment and can be performed, on demand, in English and French.

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