

EI ARAKAWA AND KARL HOLMQVIST

A.E.I.O.U.

EXHIBITION 22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

Poor dead flower? when did you forget you were a flower? when did you look at your skin and decide you were an impotent dirty old locomotive? the ghost of a locomotive? the specter and shade of a once powerful mad American locomotive?

You were never no locomotive, Sunflower, you were a sunflower!

And you Locomotive, you are a locomotive, forget me not!

–Allen Ginsberg, “Sunflower Sutra” 1955

A black, E white, I red, U green, O blue: vowels, I shall tell, one day, of your mysterious origins

–Arthur Rimbaud, “Vowels” 1871

It is commonly observed, that when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather; they are in haste to tell each other, what each must already know, that it is hot or cold, bright or cloudy, windy or calm

–Samuel Johnson, 1758



A visitor at Cascate del Mulino, Italy, 2014



Visitors at The Weather Project, Tate Modern, 2003, Photo: museografo.com

Two new exhibitions *Sunflower Sutra* at Rise Projects and *A.E.I.O.U.* at Hollybush Gardens by Ei Arakawa and Karl Holmqvist will open simultaneously in two different parts of London. The brutalist former residential building in Holland Park that houses Rise Projects offers an intriguing setting where the two collaborating artists will build up more of a stage-set installation where they will be filming during the preparatory stages of the exhibition.

At Hollybush Gardens the finished video will be shown as a large-scale projection together with a collection of related items, art works, drawings and sculpture. Even though the two artists have collaborated previously on several occasions they do not necessarily always share the same view, but instead allow the works they make to enter a type of discussion. A negotiation that stays open to changing views along the way.

NOTES ON THE FILM;

WE HEART EARTH HEAT (pOEtry jOUrnEy) is a 26 minute film that is part of a continuous collaboration between Ei Arakawa and Karl Holmqvist that began with pOEtry pArk in 2010 (in which the artists created a temporal daily park annexed to Frieze Art Fair, inspired by seminal designer Isamu Noguchi). For WHEH, two travelled, or one followed another, in different locations in search of relationships between poetry, bodies and our society. A starting point is a natural hot spring in Tuscany, Italy. Then, from this small town of a geothermal power plant to Olafur Eliasson inspired by *The Weather Project*, re-visited in a rundown house in the Holland Park, London. The film also includes Berlin and London street scenes, exhibition interiors and performance views forming an intriguing collage of situations and sceneries. Concerns include that of sustainable energy sources and recycling of materials. This idea of recycling can also be said to influence the use of language itself with ideas of the cut-up and found language creating a mesh of cross references and possible readings.

This project has been made possible by the generosity of The Silvie Fleming Collection

For further information contact office@hollybushgardens.co.uk. To view *Sunflower Sutra* at Rise Projects contact romilly@silvieflemingcollection.com

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Ei Arakawa lives and works in New York. Selected performances and exhibitions: Gwangju Biennial, Korea (2014); Whitney Biennial, New York (2014); Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2013); Pavilion of Georgia at the 55th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2013); Tate Modern, London (2012); 30th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo (2012); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2012); Wiels, Brussel, Belgium (2011); Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland (2009); Yokohama Triennale, Kanagawa (2008).

Karl Holmqvist lives and works in Berlin. Current showing: *Rameau's Nephews* with Sofie Berntsen at Nasjonal Museet, Oslo. Recent shows include: *Give Poster's a Try*, Charlottenborg Konsthall, Copenhagen, 2013, *Naked Chess*, Dependance, Brussels, 2013, *Give Poetry A Try*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2013, *EQ UI LI BR IU M*, Galerie Neu, Berlin & *EQ UI LI BR IU M*, MD72, Berlin, 2013, *SHAMAN/SHOWMAN*, (with Oscar Tuazon) Chantal Crousel La Douane, Paris, 2012, *WORDS ARE PEOPLE*, Alex Zachary Peter Currie, New York, 2012, *The Visit*, Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, 2012

He was awarded the Arthur Koepke Award in 2013