



Fig.2: Studies of a Collection

Fig.3: I don't know what to say

Dates: 02.09.11 – 17.09.11

Opening: 1.09.11 from 6.30 PM

A new program of events at the David Roberts Art Foundation, the series of ongoing figures explores how knowledge can be co-produced and shared through innovative formats of talks, conferences, research projects or book presentations.

Fig.2: Studies of a Collection is a short self-reflective project, featuring a number of artworks from the David Roberts Collection together with the archives attached to them. Displaying a selection of works that have been lent to other spaces the collection will be opened up in a manner that offers both transparency and receptiveness by revealing the movements of these works to manifest how the collection has been used.

Proposing a site of formative moments we are interested in the different strategies themselves that allow us to investigate and activate the collection as a body of research. What does it mean for a work to enter the collection? How can different structures of representation provide a stimulus for future projects or ways of thinking?

By displaying not only the narrative past of each work with press releases and installation images of previous loans but also legal and conservation documents together with personal correspondence, each work becomes a case study that points towards various different forms of critical engagement. In this sense, the collection will not only become the sum of its parts but a research tool that constantly creates its own history and purpose.

Fig.2 is the first chapter within a wider research into the potential of a collection. The short time period gives us the opportunity to actively experiment with various aspects of particular works and how they are positioned within the collection. Apart from our own research undertaken here at the David Roberts Art Foundation, guests have been invited to activate and freely interpret artworks and archival material for their own accord, through different methodological approaches.

Invited guests: David Raymond Conroy, Ruth Buchanan, Ghislaine Leung, Sally O'Reilly.

Artists included from the collection: Fiona Banner, Karla Black, Cyprien Gaillard, Dora Garcia, Lothar Hempel, Marine Hugonnier, Gary Hume, Donald Moffett, Katy Moran, Roman Ondak, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel.

Fig. 3: I don't know what to say, curated by Stef Hirsch and Anca Rujoiu, will highlight and activate the social conventions and verbal routines that manifest within the gallery setting and the art-viewing experience.

Fig. 3 is informed by research into phatic communication within the context of visual art. As a concept, the phatic function designates speech actions that are not intended to transmit information but rather establish bonds through social interaction. Greeting rituals, chitchat, idle talk, or any acts through which individuals assert mutual sociability all exemplify phatic communication.

By introducing a series of artistic interventions into the framework of an existing exhibition, the works commissioned for Fig. 3 will reconsider the private view, the press release, the casual conversation, and other aspects of public etiquette. With this approach, Fig. 3 will explore how seemingly insignificant communicative tendencies can actively construct and participate in the process of viewing an exhibition.

Invited artists: Noah Angell, Stefan Brüggemann, Patrick Coyle, Brandon LaBelle, Kelly Large, Claire Nichols and David Garner, Mark Selby.

About The David Roberts Art Foundation Limited

The David Roberts Art Foundation: exhibiting, producing, sharing. A platform dedicated to critical dialogues and experiments, directed and curated by Vincent Honoré. The David Roberts Art Foundation Limited is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1119738) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (No. 6051439) at 25 Gosfield Street, London, W1W 6HQ. It is proudly supported by the Edinburgh House Estates group of companies.

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