

Shannon Ebner

*Black Box Collision A: Gasoline & Auto Electric*

May 22 – August 8, 2014

kaufmann repetto is happy to announce Shannon Ebner's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

Exploring the boundaries between writing, photography and sculpture, Ebner approaches language and photography as both the objects and subjects of her work, pushing viewers to read as much as look at the work.

For her solo show at kaufmann repetto, the Los Angeles based artist will present an ongoing project titled *Black Box Collision A: Gasoline & Auto Electric*, a continuation of two previous exhibitions that took place in Rome and London.

For *Black Box Collision A* the gallery space is inhabited by a group of 17 large-scale photographs of the letter 'A.' Mined from the vestige of sign, advertisement, message, or other mode of visual communication, the photographs of the letter 'A' are devoid of their original context. Printed to human scale and placed in the painted 'black box' of the gallery, the images are meant to collide like bodies in space, residing at the intersection of where the graphic meets the photographic and where an image, if it were a body, could locate its center of gravity in a pictorial field of exhausted photographic tropes.

The second part of the exhibition is a continuation of the eponymous *Auto Body Collision* poem, first introduced in March at the Fondazione Memmo in Rome. Conceived as a poem written in long form, large cardboard letters painted auto body primer gray share wall space with photographs that depict extant forms of writing. The auto body collision poem, from which only a small portion will be incorporated into the exhibition, is written from the vernacular language of auto body collision centers, which play on the words auto and body. In Greek, the word auto means 'self', 'one's own', or 'by one's self' and the body can be one or many – a body that is corporeal, a body of text, or the body of an automobile – among other imagined bodies. Culled from various web sources, the words and phrases of the poem are discarded parts and bits that have been found, edited and recombined by the artist.

Whether constructed or found, Ebner's evocations of language remind us of its mercurial nature. Here the architecture of language is excavated from landscapes that become fertile and suggestive terrain – traces that can be read as both poem and vehicle for the poem.

Shannon Ebner (b. 1971, New Jersey) lives and works in Los Angeles. Current and recent exhibitions include *Auto Body Collision*, Fondazione Memmo (Rome), 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). Upcoming projects and exhibitions include Altman Siegel Gallery, San Francisco, The High Line, NY (2014-15), and a solo exhibition at North Miami MOCA (2015).