

# Mary Mary

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## Alexis Teplin - 'Drag, Push, HOOT'

21 November 2015 - 23 January 2016

Mary Mary is delighted to announce a solo exhibition by Alexis Teplin. This show includes a series of unstretched patchwork paintings that hang like banners on metal frames throughout the space. These act as screens or backdrops to a series of new performances by the artist.

'Drag, Push, HOOT' is a short play by Teplin comprised of the artist's own writing alongside text derived from sources including 'The Servant,' (film adaptation, Harold Pinter 1963), 'Charade' (film 1963), Florraine Stettheimer's poetry, Whistler - 'The Gentle Art of Making Enemies' (1890), Lisa Lipinski - 'Robust Cheer' (2015) and Nina Simone - 'Mississippi Goddam' (1964).

This performance portrays four women mirroring and watching each other both in action and in image. The language of the play is both abstract and concrete, the actors reciting text that describes more than one visual association at the same time. The four actors, wearing costumes reminiscent of a decadent past, mirror the four paintings within the gallery. The paintings themselves intersect the architecture to provide a notion of domesticity and to visually connect the performers to the space - each painting acting as a frame for a character and an action.

Within this short play, Teplin marries football chants and gesture, fragments from a Square dance and a Dilettante's poem whilst looking to and referencing Hollywood films from the 1960s, a Sonia Delauney publicity film, the traditions of theatre, and particularly the history of abstract theatre as social activism. The title of the show and performance is derived from Saffdar Hashimi's text 'The Right to Perform' within which a group of actors performing street theatre are dragged away by the establishment as their audience hoots -

*"Another expression of the people's anger was a street play called DTC's Fraudulence put up by the Jan Natya Manch on February 8th, 1986....Large crowds watched the 15 minute play joining the actors in raising anti-DTC slogans at the end of the performance.....the best police tried to disrupt the performance but were hooted away by the audience.....two of the actors were dragged by police to the waiting police van.....the same story repeated throughout the week"*

Within her practice Teplin has focused on how movement and sound can be experienced in painting, creating what she describes as 'sound words.' For Teplin, an exhibition is the staging between painting and cultural language. Her paintings focus on the tonal sound created through colour and brushwork while within her performance works, this is further developed in how language becomes both image and sound, political and nonsensical.

Born in 1976 in California, Alexis Teplin lives & works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include 'HE and HO for O', Rise Projects, Silvie Fleming Collection, London (2015); 'La Grotto Rosa,' Cardrde, Bologna & 'San Marino Calling,' Museo D'Arte Modena e Contemporanea, San Marino (both 2014); 'He, Ho, HA, hmmm...,' Mary Mary, Glasgow & 'sss T !!,' Hayward Project Space, London (both 2013); 'Progress, PLEAS,' Hotel, London (2012). Recent group exhibitions include 'A Merman I Should Turn To Be,' Laura Bartlett Gallery, London; 'Sacre 101 - An exhibition based on the Rite of Spring,' Migros Museum, Zurich (both 2014); 'Costume : Written Clothing,' Tramway, Glasgow (2013); 'British Painting,' Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam (curated by Tom Morton) (2012); 'Painting Show,' Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2011).

Performances will take place every Wednesday & Saturday at 3pm. There will be an additional performance on 7 December with timings to be confirmed

The gallery will be closed for Christmas break from 20 December, re-opening on 5 January 2016