

SAM KEOGH

Kapton Cadaverine

27 January – 10 March 2018

In Sam Keogh's *Kapton Cadaverine*, Kerlin Gallery is transformed into the interior of a dilapidated starship. The ship's once-white control panels, table and bulkheads are covered in grime. Detritus litters the floor and strange organic forms and collaged images adorn almost every surface. Webs of melted plastic, stuck together with Kapton tape, cocoon the space in a mucosal membrane and the constant white noise of artificial rain underlines the eerie absence of an inhabitant.



The more architectural structures are revealed as props once the painted MDF is spotted. An intentional dissonance forms between these artificial objects and the more deliberately crafted ones – the repeated form of the wall panels for instance, made from Jesmonite and polyurethane resin and infected with adulterants, which blossom just under their surfaces. Or the small, glowing sculptures on the table, with their translucent cell walls built up from layers of acrylic medium, reminiscent of slime molds or architectural models apparently made from sperm.

Though populated by these singular objects, the installation is activated by a performance. It begins with an astronaut waking up in the battered cryopod at the centre of the ship. He displays symptoms of premature thawing: memory loss, confusion, frostbite. His stained outfit mark him out as the source of the ship's filthy condition. He acknowledges the audience but only as hallucinations, spectral symptoms of a prolonged lack of human contact. Intermittently speaking and listening to the on-board computer, he tries to make sense of his surroundings by reassembling scattered memories of the Earth he left behind. These monologues are interrupted by

manic descriptions of androids with liquid latex blood, the bacteria feeding on the ship's walls, or an explanation of a Soviet philosopher's idea to circumvent the heat death of the universe through a re-ignition of the Big Bang.

Kapton Cadaverine continues Keogh's interest in melding performance, installation and sculpture into scrappy and mutable wholes. Sculpture and collage serve as props and mnemonic devices for the performance but are also in excess of these functions, spilling over with idiosyncratic detail and extraneous information. Here, the objects shift between artwork made by Keogh, props used by the performer and ambiguous technologies made by the astronaut in a vain effort to patch up the malfunctioning ship. In this indeterminate space, materials, memories and affects begin to smudge into each other until a sticky cognitive map begins to emerge.

Keogh's performance will take place on the opening night of the exhibition, Friday 26 January, between 6–8pm, and then again at 3pm on Saturday 10 February. Between performances, an audio recording will re-play from within the cryopod.

Kapton Cadaverine was developed with the help of the Rijksakademie Amsterdam and EVA International. It is the first incarnation of a new body work to be commissioned by EVA International funded by the Arts Council's OPEN CALL grant.

For further information, please contact Rosa Abbott, rosa@kerlin.ie.

Sam Keogh (b. Wicklow, 1985) is based between Dublin, London and Amsterdam, where he recently completed a residency at the prestigious Rijksakademie. Keogh's work will be included in two biennials in 2018: Eva International, Limerick (14 April – 8 July) and Glasgow International (20 April – 7 May). Recent solo exhibitions include *Eurocopter EC135*, Dortmunder Kunstverein (2016); *Four Fold*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2015); *Mop*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin (2013); *Terrestris*, Project Arts Centre, Dublin (2012) and *Temporary Halo*, Storefront, Vancouver BC (2010).

Artist Talk

Sam Keogh will appear in conversation with artist and lecturer Sarah Pierce at Kerlin Gallery on Thursday 1 February, 5pm. This event is part of a collaboration with NCAD's Master's Program 'Art in the Contemporary World' (acw.ie).