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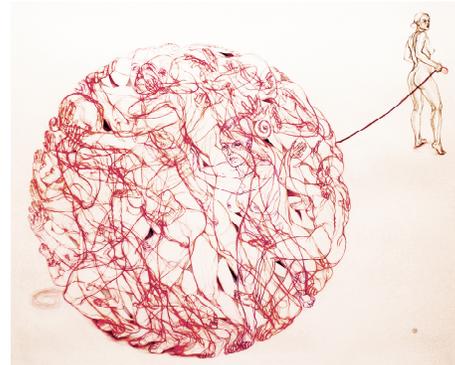
Un-Interrupted

Sept 9 – 30, 2010

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Erica Schreiner, Still from *Paper Cup*, 2008



Sol Kjøk, *Push and Pull*, 2010, Colored Pencil, Graphite, Tissue Paper and Yarn on Perforated Paper, 18 x 22 ½ in

Bill Hodges Gallery is proud to present *Un-Interrupted*, a joint exhibition of arresting and evocative artworks by Erica Schreiner and Sol Kjøk. Harnessing such diverse mediums as video and drawing, Schreiner and Kjøk come together within the show to present distinct representations, documentations and deliberate re-imaginings of femininity’s place within society. Connoting the empowerment associated with uncensored speech, the exhibition title additionally addresses the artists’ determination to find balance and expression despite the difficulties and setbacks faced by women in contemporary society.

Issues of self-representation and body are prominent within both artists’ work. As an undeniable signifier of gender difference, as well as, a potent carrier of iconographic meaning, the female body becomes a necessary vehicle for the assertion and communication of feminine identity. Within their work, both Schreiner and Kjøk strive to re-contextualize the feminine image, thereby creating new and surprising identities and roles for their female protagonists.

Sensual, meticulous and dream-like, Schreiner’s videos articulate feminine identity through a playful manipulation of stereotypically female behaviors, activities and modes of communication. A major trope within Schreiner’s videos is the apparent dichotomy between body and language, or textuality and sensuality. Just as *Paper Cup* replaces the meter of a telephone conversation with the tasting of chocolate and mashing of flowers, a strange, heavy and opulent tactility characterizes the communicative actions in many of Schreiner’s videos.

Such a somatically based method of communication is relentlessly gendered. Not only is Schreiner frequently imaged in interaction with the feminine symbols of fruit and flowers, but she also depicts the feminine cliché through the use of precise settings and alluring costumes. Throughout her videos, however, Schreiner is simultaneously pictured in aggressive, absurd and often repulsive acts of smashing, smearing and eating. In this way, Schreiner reclaims the tactile and “feminine” form of expression as a means to expose the inner contradictions, falsities and shortcomings of the female stereotype.

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By contrast, Kjøk's stark and elegant compositions conceptualize the feminine in a vision of society where gender differences, hierarchies, and stereotypes are irrelevant. Within Kjøk's drawings, tangles of bodies that resemble brains are woven into cascading and complex spherical arrangements. The body becomes a carrier of energy, driven by the impartial forces of cause and effect. Hierarchies, displaced as figures, struggle to maintain balance and control within an environment checked by interdependence, drama and continual vulnerability.

Hierarchies, ideologies and gender differences are further dislodged by Kjøk's particular treatment of the human figure. Throughout her drawings, Kjøk establishes a tension between personal struggle and collective responsibility, appearing to suggest that one's individuality describes nothing more than a niche in society. In addition to this, Kjøk's drawings brazenly display nude, bald and shockingly anatomical female figures alongside similarly nude, bald and shockingly anatomical men. Genitalia are freely and un-sensually groped and exposed, further suggesting the fundamental irrelevance of gender roles.

Erica Schreiner has presented her work extensively throughout the United States and abroad. Beyond video, Schreiner additionally works in the mediums of writing and performance. Her first collection of short stories, *Hellos and Goodbyes* was published in 2009. Recent exhibitions, screenings and installations include: screening of *Sauce*, The First Annual Global Goddess Gala, Brooklyn, NY (2010); Premiere of short video, *Dance*, The Shirt Factory, Kingston, NY (2010); among others. To view excerpts from Schreiner's videos, *Lover*, *Ohio*, and *Paper Cup*, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/analogcinema>.

Sol Kjøk has also featured in many solo and group exhibitions. Selected solo shows include *Entre sol et ciel*, Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin, Germany (2009); *Book of Swells*, Nordic Museum of Drawing, Laholm, Sweden (2008); *Swift and Slow*, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA (2006), *Perlestrenger*, Galleri 27, Oslo, Norway (2005); as well as others. Kjøk has moreover been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, the most recent being: *Edwin Austin Abbey Mural Workshop Fellowship*, National Academy, New York, NY (2010).

Bill Hodges Gallery is located on the 6th floor of 24 West 57th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues. The closest subway stations include the F train on 57th Street, the E/M train on 53rd street/5th Avenue and the N/R/Q/W train on 57th Street/7th Avenue. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 6pm, and Saturday 12:30 – 5:30pm. For more information, or to arrange a viewing, please call Bill Hodges at (212) 333-2640.

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