

Ann Oren

THE SUPREME SPASM

September 10 - October 16, 2016

Opening reception, Sat. Sept. 10th, 6 - 8 pm

Cindy Rucker Gallery is pleased to present *The Supreme Spasm*, a four-channel video installation by Ann Oren. The work is a contemporary adaptation of *Pierrot assassin de sa femme* ("Pierrot, murderer of his wife") a play by Mallarmé's cousin Paul Margueritte. In this play, the foolish mime character has become a modern neurotic man who has killed his wife, Colombine, by tickling her to death. After her demise, her spirit enters him and tickles him until he consequently dies.

The installation conceptualizes surveillance as an act of performance, narrated by the familiar text bubbles of modern communication. Four camera perspectives create an uncanny repetition, while the non-linear narrative blurs present and past, reality and simulation, evoking the performative workings of social media. Like the Japanese *noh* plays, this piece touches upon the supernatural. Projected onto white sheets, ghostly aspects of the play are represented in the installation; the viewer is immersed into this ethereal world where the play's lack of morality displaces the clown as fool.

Margueritte's play did more than move the clown's death from side to center stage, he put the focus on the clown's means of representing death itself. (McManus, Donald; *No Kidding!: Clown as Protagonist in Twentieth Century Theater*. p. 20) Oren's surveillance perspective adds a criminal lens, while the text bubble narration brings a critical eye to 21st century communication.

Ann Oren (b. 1979, Tel Aviv) currently lives and works in Berlin as a resident at Künstlerhaus Bethanien. Most recently her work has been exhibited at APEXART, NY; The Tel-Aviv Cinematheque, Israel; Seattle Transmedia & Independent Film Festival; and Künstlerhaus Bethanien. This is her first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Cindy Rucker Gallery is located at 141 Attorney Street in New York City. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am - 6 pm and by appointment. For more information about this and other exhibitions, please contact Anastasiya Shelest at anastasiya@cindyruckergallery.com.