

## Press Release

### Prick up your Ears, curated by Taylor Trabulus

Featuring Cinzia Ruggeri, Drake Carr, DeSe Escobar, Janiva Ellis, Kayla Guthrie, Quintessa Matranga, Reba Maybury, Raul de Nieves, Marcelline Mandeng & Aurel Haize Odogbo, Rottingdean Bazaar, Ser Serpas, Stewart Uoo, Will Sheldon, Linda Stark, Women's History Museum, Club Glam

August 6 – September 16, 2017

Opening August 5, 6 – 8 PM

Text by Esra Padgett

*Prick up your Ears* finds origins in the posthumous rehashing of a murder/suicide, and the cotton fiber tableau of an orgiastic subculture, both in commodity-form: “I’ve discovered that I look better in cheap clothes...” the t-shirt, inscribed with Orton-tinged memoriam continues, “I’m from the gutter and don’t you ever forget it because I won’t.” The T-Shirt Speaks. And what started as a parody of consumption became the *real thing*, affixed to institution, the motto had emerged “art for art’s sake;” an index of autonomy built on displays of wealth and communion in commerce: this was the ontology of fake. So what do we ask in renewing this parody? A *somatechnic*, “a body of work,” a metricalized mimesis as these artworks secrete the new business style, the transnational yuppie, *no success without excess*... But this is serious too, as Doc Fanon said: “the prognosis is in the hands of those who are willing to get rid of the worm-eaten roots of the structure.”\*

Is it radical to assume we *are* the ones, who rally in disgust...contest derision and deprivation? Perhaps this is the beginning of *prognosis*. This time it won’t be about refusal, but eliding the forces of consumption and commodification with *fullness*; with glee in desire and fucking joy in utopian cruising: this is about *play—play* imbricated in production... Really, what does art do behind the sphere of exchange? This is capital’s *hidden abode*...the new *loot*, “the forward-dawning significance of the gesture”\*\* but not for futurity; this is radical hope—hope in *now-ness* stitched in dolls and gowns and garment labels, corporate models hoping for snow crash.

\*Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*.

\*\*Muñoz, José Esteban. *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*.

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