

Adjunct Positions

PRESS RELEASE 25 October 2013

Contact: David Prince, director/curator
david@davidprince.org
626.616.3075
<http://www.adjunctpositions.org>

Maura Brewer

Nature is Outside, November 23, 2013 to January 12, 2014

Public reception November 23, 6–9pm

Recently opened Los Angeles gallery Adjunct Positions presents six new works by artist Maura Brewer. *Nature is Outside* comprises a series of prints and videos exploring the relationship between the apparent boundaries of the physical body and its permeability to the surrounding environment. Drawing on text and images from science and philosophy, these works explore the limits of subjectivity, destabilizing our sense of a discrete, autonomous self. The show will open on November 23rd with a public reception from 6–9pm. Adjunct Positions is delighted to be working with Brewer, an artist whose work is simultaneously smart, elegant, and subtly comical.

Works on show are *Retinal Afterimage (1–4)*, a series of prints based on nineteenth century scientist Jan Purkinje's drawings of retinal afterimages. In 1823, he produced a series of drawings of the images that appear in the eye after looking at a bright light. Selections of these images have been reproduced in glow-in-the-dark ink, recreating the original optical experience. The images are viewed on a timed light, visually alternating between the 'positive' silhouette of the afterimages and its dark, glowing 'negative'.

Nature is Outside is a short video that explores the art object in relation to ideas about natural beauty and subjective expression. Drawing on Kant's discussion of artistic genius in *Critique of Judgment*, *Nature is Outside* questions the relationship between external beauty found in the natural world and internal beauty expressed by the artist. *Sea* is an animation that traces the evolutionary development of eyes to conditions in the prehistoric ocean. In *Sea*, tears are the link between figure and landscape, serving as a reminder of our oceanic beginnings. The animation is accompanied by Smokey Robinson's 1965 song 'The Tracks of My Tears'.

About the Artist

Brewer's videos, animations and drawings explore the relationship between popular media and limits of subjectivity. Her research-driven approach combines found films, television shows, educational media, and other cultural ephemera with constructed elements. Drawing parallels between appropriated media and personal history, Brewer's work reveals the ways that popular media alternately consolidates and destabilizes the subject through a web of identifications. Currently, Brewer is working in collaboration with Civic Center Studios to produce an experimental documentary about the Bradbury Building, a history entwined with science fiction, nineteenth century socialism, and the forgotten utopian aspirations of the city of Los Angeles.

About the Gallery

Adjunct Positions is non-commercial and artist-run. Located in a residential garage, it has been sensitively converted into a small project space opening directly onto the sidewalk at the curator's home in Highland Park. Programming for 2013–14 will focus on Los Angeles-based artists in order to foster community engagement in keeping with the demi-domestic nature of the space, and to integrate a local audience. Curator David Prince is drawn to work that elicits a spirit of serious play, work which is often analytical, process oriented, and playful. The program emphasizes experimental solo projects that may not find a home in more traditional, commercial gallery settings.

About the Curator

David Prince is an artist, curator, and community arts advocate, working within the media of video, sculpture, digital media, and performance whose artwork investigates creative solutions to real and fictional situations. David received an MFA in sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. He is based in Los Angeles, where he lives, works, and runs Adjunct Positions.

Links

Maura Brewer

<http://maurabrewer.com>

David Prince

<http://davidprince.org>