

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

GERARD & KELLY

KISS SOLO

JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 16, 2013

OPENING SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, FROM 6-8 PM

Gerard & Kelly's first solo exhibition at the gallery, *Kiss Solo*, explores the choreography of desire. The work consists of a multi-channel audio and video projection, shown on four screens suspended by a series of crossing wires.

Each video in *Kiss Solo* depicts a solo dancer enacting both the male and female roles of an erotic encounter. Illuminated against a white screen, the dancer shifts and combines pronouns and positions in response to a spoken text of choreographic directives. Weaving throughout the four screens and beneath suspended speakers, viewers are guided into their own choreographed role as audience, watching the individual dancers as both a single performance and together as a group.

Kiss Solo re-engages score-based procedures to explore alternatives to the heteronormative couple, reconsidering the pictorial tradition of the embrace and representations of intimacy. A certain physical and aural stuttering abounds as each dancer interprets Gerard & Kelly's broken rendition of an amorous choreography refracted into multiple translations passed from one to another, similar to a game of telephone.

Kiss Solo is the final iteration of a cycle of works by Gerard & Kelly that arose in response to the 2010 exhibition of Tino Sehgal's *Kiss* (2002) at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, in which rotating male/female couples enacted a prolonged embrace in the lobby. Sehgal prohibited any documentation of his work and limited the experience of the performance and its afterlife to the audience's subjective recollections. Curious as to the mechanisms of the performance, Gerard & Kelly visited the exhibition multiple times and clandestinely documented the performance by recording a spoken narration of each of the gestures. In doing so, they discovered *Kiss* was a tightly choreographed twelve-minute loop. Using this spoken transcription as a score, they repurposed and re-inscribed its gestures into a series of performances, videos, and photographs.

Brennan Gerard (b. 1978 in Piqua, OH) and Ryan Kelly (b. 1979 in Drums, PA) graduated from the Whitney Independent Study Program in 2010, and are currently pursuing their MFA at the University of California, Los Angeles. Gerard received a BA from Yale University in 2001, and Kelly was a dancer with New York City Ballet, receiving a BA from Fordham University in 2008. They currently live and work in Los Angeles, CA.

Their work has recently been included in exhibitions at CCS Bard, Center for Curatorial Studies and Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (2012); University Art Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA (2011); and Art in General, New York, NY (2010). They have performed at venues including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY; Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL; Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York, NY; and Danspace Project, New York, NY. They are the founders and co-directors of Moving Theater, a non-profit performance arts organization.

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, from 11 until 6 PM. For further information and images please email info@katewerblegallery.com.