

The Instability of Perception

A Panel Discussion Moderated by Exhibition Curator
Chương-Đài Võ with Artists Ashley Billingsley and
Paul Qaysi and Scholar Gabrielle Starr

Sunday, February 15, 2:00–3:30 PM

In conjunction with our current exhibition, *An Aesthetics of Slowness* curated by Chương-Đài Võ, Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs is pleased to present:

The Instability of Perception

A Panel Discussion Moderated by Exhibition Curator Chương-Đài Võ with Artists Ashley Billingsley and Paul Qaysi and Scholar Gabrielle Starr

SEATING WILL BE LIMITED

RSVP 718-937-6317 or rsvp@dorsky.org

The exhibition *An Aesthetics of Slowness* embraces the limits of perception in apprehending physical experience. In their opacity and seeming transparency, the projects do not offer easily discernable representations, but instead focus our perception on the process of looking and seeing. This panel brings together two of the artists in the exhibition and a researcher of aesthetics and neuroscience to speak about their approaches to the question of perception. Ashley Billingsley will talk about her representations of landscape as a vehicle for exploring the inadequacy of the senses in deciphering direct experience. Paul Qaysi will discuss his examination of the invisible structures of perception and framing that shape notions of truth and reality about war, death and civilian casualties. Gabrielle Starr will discuss her research on how the brain responds to aesthetic stimulation.



Ashley Billingsley, *Fire in Woods IV*, 2013

Ashley Billingsley is an artist based in Boston, MA. Her work examines the tenuous relationship between visual apprehension and meaning. Recent projects include *Boom and Bust*, a drawing installation commissioned by New York's apexart for *On the Streets*, a 2014 exhibition at JavaArts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; and *Save Yourself*, a series of drawings inspired by a moment in Akira Kurosawa's 1954 film, *Seven Samurai*. She studied at School of the Art Institute of Chicago before earning a BFA from University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and an MFA from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University combined degree program. Select exhibitions include *Right Here Over There* at Lexington Art League in Kentucky; *Close Encounters* at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts/Gallery 51 in North Adams, MA; and *Beyond Purview* at New Art Center in Newton, MA.



Paul Qaysi, *Gaza July 16, 2014 I0192116 AUG 14 MISPRINTJ*, 2014

Paul Qaysi received his BFA in Sculpture from Pratt Institute in 1989, and MFA in Photography from Bard College-International Center of Photography in 2009. His photography, sculpture and animation examine the effects and representations of war that include documentation of civilian casualties and forgotten accidents of the Iraq War and other conflicts. Qaysi also produces self-portraits and photographed installations that document the conjunction of time and place. Many of these works treat themes of survival and alienation.

Gabrielle Starr is a scholar of eighteenth-century British literature and of aesthetics, as well as a researcher in experimental aesthetics. She uses the tools of cognitive neuroscience, behavioral psychology, and the humanities to explore the contours of aesthetic experience. Her most recent book is *Feeling Beauty* (MIT Press, 2013); it explores the ways our responses to painting, poetry and music are mediated by brain-based reward processes and by the default mode network. This work has been supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in the form of a New Directions Fellowship to facilitate training in neuroscience, as well as by an NSF-ADVANCE grant (jointly with Nava Rubin) at New York University. She is currently director of a three-year, collaborative international project on brain responses to music, painting, and literary imagery.

For more information about *An Aesthetics of Slowness*, please visit www.dorsky.org to download the PDF version of the brochure containing the curator's essay.



This exhibition, publication, and related programming are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

This program is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

11-03 45th Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101

T: 718 937 6317 | F: 718 937 7469 | E: info@dorsky.org | www.dorsky.org