

(April 1 – 12)

2 — The Front Room

TRIS VONNA-MICHELL



British artist Tris Vonna-Michell delivers performances designed to capitalize on their live setting. Suggestive of the morphology of oral histories, his monologues undergo constant alteration and abstraction—where improvisation, on-the-fly edits, and changing conditions determine the nature of the tale being told. Drawing from personal journeys, urban histories, and childhood memories, Vonna-Michell weaves together disparate threads at rapid-fire pace. The artist's subsequent installations often combine sound, images, and objects—video, slide projections, or photocopied texts he shuffles on to the floor—as he invites his viewers (and listeners) to reconstruct the narrative from an assemblage of fragments.

On the eve of his exhibition opening in the Front Room, Vonna-Michell performs several takes of a new story. In a dizzying sequence of personal, historical, and coincidental anecdotes, he brings together myth, fantasy, and reality. The subsequent sound recording—capturing Tris's monologue, but also the clicking slide carousel and the sounds of the crowd—is then replayed in the emptied space of the gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

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Tris Vonna-Michell was born in 1982 in Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom, and he currently lives in Stockholm and London. He has presented solo exhibitions and performances at Cabinet Gallery, London; Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich; Kunstverein Braunschweig Cuboid, Braunschweig, Germany; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; and Milliken Gallery, Stockholm. He has presented work in group exhibitions at IASPIS, Stockholm; Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit; Tate Britain, London; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Reykjavík Art Museum, Reykjavík; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and the Serpentine Gallery, London; among others.

Image:

Leipzig Calendar Works, 2005 and ongoing

Performance at Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art,
Rotterdam, May 19, 2007

Courtesy of the artist. Photo Bob Goedewaagen

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