

Grand Arts Presents:

STANYA KAHN

“Don’t Go Back To Sleep”

May 9 - July 3, 2014



OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, May 9, 6-9PM
Screening Times: 6PM, 7:30PM

ARTIST TALK: Saturday, May 10, 2PM
Screening Times: 11AM, 12:30PM, 3PM

REGULAR SCREENING TIMES:
Thursday - Saturday: 11AM, 1PM, 3PM

*“...People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don’t go back to sleep.”*
~Rumi

*“A body doesn’t coincide with itself. It is already on the move. The present’s ‘boundary condition’ is
never a closed door. It is an open threshold — a threshold of potential.”*
~Brian Massumi, “Navigating Movements”

ABOUT “DON’T GO BACK TO SLEEP”

Grand Arts is pleased to present Stanya Kahn’s latest work: a feature-length video titled “Don’t Go Back to Sleep.” Kahn created, directed, shot, and edited the 75-minute piece. Anchoring the film’s structure is Kahn’s sound design, which includes original compositions by the artist along with musician Keith Wood (of *Hush Arbors* and Thurston Moore’s band *Chelsea Light Moving*). Extending a video practice that allows fluid boundaries between the real and the fictive, between narrative and abstraction, Kahn directs an ensemble cast of mostly non-actors to perform in scripted and improvised scenarios in which their subjectivity and agency become central to the film’s construction. Darkly comedic and uncanny scenes revolve around groups of medical professionals stationed in newly built, vacant homes as they prepare for impending emergencies. Time alternately slows and speeds as the characters are suspended in the in-between of waiting, their affective potential activated by constant uncertainty and disasters already underway.

Kahn’s work compresses actions, images, and words to make poetic jokes, often exploring rhetoric, the making of meaning and its undoing, and agency and displacement. Kahn frequently situates language in the foreground of works that are dialectically driven by the demands of the body.

“Don’t Go Back to Sleep” was made with support from the Guggenheim Foundation and Grand Arts. It premiered at Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects on April 19, 2014 and continues on view there, along with recent drawings by Kahn, until May 24, 2014.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Stanya Kahn was a 2012 Guggenheim Fellow in Film/Video and a 2014 Artadia Grant Awardee. Forthcoming are her contributions to Gabrielle Jennings’ anthology on abstract video (by UCPress) and to the journals *Xtra* and *Material*. She is also at work on a new book of texts and drawings.

Stanya Kahn’s recent solo shows include The New Museum, New York, NY; The University Galleries of the University of Illinois, Normal, IL; Pigna Project Space, Rome, Italy; Cornerhouse, Manchester, UK; and Galleria Perdida/ Recess Activities, New York, NY. Recent group shows include “Two Schools of Cool” and the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, CA; “Always Worried,” ICA, London; Future Gallery, Berlin with Keren Cytter and Shana Moulton and “Cherub” at 2nd Cannons Project Space, LA. In 2010 her video, “It’s Cool, I’m Good,” won the jury prize for short fiction at the Migrating Forms Festival in NY. Her work in collaboration with Harry Dodge was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial; “Code Share” CAC Vilnius, Lithuania; “Videonale 12,” Kunstalle Bonn, GDR; “Slightly Unbalanced,” Harnnnett Museum, Richmond, VA; in “Reflections on the Electric Mirror,” Brooklyn Museum of Art; “Unusual Behavior,” Santa Barbara Museum of Contemporary Art, CA; “California Video,” Getty Museum, LA; “Laughing in a Foreign Language,” The Hayward, London; “Between Two Deaths,” ZKM/Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, GDR; “Eden’s Edge,” Hammer Museum, LA, CA; “Shared Women,” Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, LA, CA; “Defamation of Character,” PS 1, NY; Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, NY; “Marking Time,” Getty Museum and Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, CA, among others.

ABOUT GRAND ARTS

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City, MO., that commissions and assists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. The gallery is open Thursday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 11am-5pm and by appointment.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Image: Stanya Kahn, “Don’t Go Back To Sleep”, 2014. Feature-length video, 75:00.

Image courtesy of the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects