

Carroll / Fletcher



Still from Richard T. Walker, *the predicament of always (as it is)* (2014)

Press Release

Richard T. Walker
everything failing to become something

25 September - 14 November 2015

Private View: Thursday 24 September, 6 - 8pm

Anticipation isn't what it used to be. The result never seems to qualify the build up. Underwhelming fantasies are still here because they may be more real than the real within which they choose to float and find description.

Richard T. Walker

Carroll / Fletcher is pleased to announce a new solo exhibition by San Francisco-based British artist Richard T. Walker. ***everything failing to become something*** furthers the artist's ongoing research into the American West. Drawing on experimental sound-making and the combined legacies (and clichés) of land art and romanticism, Walker's work explores the relationship between sincerity and experience, feeling and understanding, music and language.

The exhibition will feature a recent body of work never shown in the UK before, including a two-channel video shot in Southwest Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Lightboxes present rocks turning into mountains, while reproductions of etchings, taken from a 19th century Alpine travelogue, bear cut-out mountain tops rolling at the bottom of the frames in which they are displayed. Formed from Casiotone keyboards, Walker's sculptural neon installations mimic the jagged outlines of the rocks placed on the works' keys. These create a drone-like sound, anticipating the hum of the empty spaces featured in his new video work.

Walker's musical influences range from Brian Eno and La Monte Young to 80s and 90s alternative and indie rock bands Spacemen 3, Sebadoh, Dinosaur Jr and Pavement, which deeply affected him during his childhood in Shropshire, on the rural border of England and

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Wales. Critical reflections on the oeuvre of iconic American photographer Ansel Adams and Hudson River School landscape painter Frederic Edwin Church have also played a key role in shaping Walker's practice.

The video *the predicament of always (as it is)* (2014) was partly shot near Marfa, Texas, a high site of minimalism, closely associated with Donald Judd. It begins with Walker in the pose of the *Rückenfigur*, a solitary presence seen from behind, amid deserted expanses. Clad in his signature red t-shirt, the artist sits *en plein air* in various natural locales while a recorded soundtrack of his own voice plays, as if he was attempting to converse with the awe-inspiring - but frustratingly mute - nature around him.

Throughout the piece, Walker films a series of static instruments placed within multiple landscapes and proceeds to activate each one by throwing a rock at it from outside the frame. The modest, verging-on-pathetic gesture has an existentialist quality: motivated by the vital urge to fully commune with one's environment, it sharply highlights the virtual impossibility thereof.

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NOTES TO THE EDITORS

Richard T. Walker

Richard T. Walker (b. 1977, Shrewsbury, UK) is based in San Francisco. He holds a BA in Fine Art from Bath Spa University College (1999) and an MA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London (2005). Recent solo shows, group exhibitions and performances include *the fallibility of intent*, Di Rosa, Napa, USA (2015); *the predicament of always (as it is)*, The Contemporary Austin, Austin, USA (2014); *the predicament of always (as we are)* ASU Art Museum, Tempe, USA (2014); *the security of impossibility*, The Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco, USA (performance) (2013); *in defiance of being here*, Carroll / Fletcher, London, UK (2013); *let this be us*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, USA (2013); and *Stage Presence*, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA (performance).

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Carroll / Fletcher supports established and emerging artists whose work transcends traditional categorisation, using diverse media in order to explore socio-political or technological themes. From rising talents such as Constant Dullaart, Mishka Henner, and Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, to interactive installation artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer and computer art pioneer Manfred Mohr, the gallery represents an international range of artists who use interdisciplinary research and broad means to produce work that reflects on and provides insight into contemporary culture.

For further press information, please contact khuroum@carrollfletcher.com.