

## RELATED TALKS, SCREENINGS & EVENTS

### Exhibition Tours

Every Sat, 3pm, & Last Fridays, 7pm, Free

Gallery assistants lead informal drop-in tours of the exhibition.

### Toxic Play In Two Acts: Talk

Sat 15 Dec, 4pm, £5/£3

A talk by Berlin-based scholar Nana Adusei-Poku, entitled 'Detox! From Alphonse Bertillon to Queer Visuality', specifically commissioned in response to *Toxic*, accompanied by an artists' talk in response to the works in *Toxic Play In Two Acts*.

### Performances by Antonia Baehr & William Wheeler

Sat 15 Dec, 8pm, £7/£5

Antonia Baehr is one of Boudry/Lorenz's most frequent collaborators, performing as her alter ego Werner Hirsch in most of their films to date, including *Toxic*. For this evening of performance, Baehr focuses on her own practice, in turn working with another regular collaborator, William Wheeler.

### Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz: Screening

Fri 1 Feb, Tate Tanks, £5/£4 conc

A screening of other works by Boudry/Lorenz in Tate Tanks as part of the two-day event *Charming For The Revolution: A Congress For Gender Talents and Wildness*.

### Toxic Play In Two Acts: Screening

Wed 20 Feb, 7pm, £5/£3 conc

A screening curated by Anne-Sophie Dinant with Electra, in response to the practice of Boudry/Lorenz.

### Showing in the Main Gallery

Sanja Iveković: Unknown Heroine

South London Gallery & Calvert 22

14 Dec 2012 – 24 Feb 2013

### Forthcoming Exhibitions

Pae White

15 Mar – 12 May 2013

# SLG

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# TOXIC PLAY IN TWO ACTS: PAULINE BOUDRY/ RENATE LORENZ

## EXHIBITION GUIDE

FRI 14 DEC 2012 - SUN 24 FEB 2013

## TOXIC PLAY IN TWO ACTS: PAULINE BOUDRY/RENATE LORENZ FRI 14 DEC 2012 – SUN 24 FEB 2013

### Curated by Electra

#### First floor galleries, admission free

For their first solo presentation in the UK, Berlin-based artist duo Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz present the film installations *Toxic*, 2012, and *Salomania*, 2009 in the South London Gallery's first floor gallery spaces. The artists describe the show as being 'a toxic play in two acts' bringing together a homage to the underground performance artist and filmmaker, Jack Smith, and a performance by Yvonne Rainer and Wu Tsang.

Boudry/Lorenz's distinctive treatment of the moving image, their use of film loops as a mode of performance in itself, and the fluency and pleasure of their cinematography has gained them widespread international acclaim, yet this exhibition is the first solo presentation of their work in the UK. Together they stage the actions of individuals and groups living – indeed thriving – in defiance of convention, law and economy. Producing plays for the camera, they upset normative historical narratives and inclusions through the staging, projection and layering of moments and figures across time.

*Toxic*, 2012, is a new work drawing on the artists' ongoing interest in the *Theatre of the Ridiculous* – performances by Jack Smith, with scripts and films by Ronald Tavel, in the late 1960s in New York – which formulated a mocking and outrageous queer critique of capitalism and the normalisation of bodies. The installation presents performances by Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Werner Hirsch, which explore ideas of both the toxic, and of toxicity – substances and people that threaten and destabilise conventional notions of purity and stability. Ultimately turning the lens on itself, *Toxic* interrogates the filmic apparatus as a medium of toxic substances and effects. Jointly conceived for both the Paris Triennale and the South London Gallery, the film installation is accompanied by local archival research that charts moments of representational ambiguity in the early history of police photography.

*Salomania*, 2009, features filmed performances by pioneering artist and choreographer Yvonne Rainer and artist Wu Tsang as they reconstruct the 'dance of the seven veils' from Russian American filmmaker and actress Alla Nazimova's 1923 silent film *Salomé*, set against the vast backdrop of the original silent movie. Running as a parallel narrative to this performative reenactment is the presentation of Yvonne Rainer's 1972 response to Nazimova's original film. *Salomania* unfolds as a plotting and collapsing of connections: the Biblical character of Salomé; Oscar Wilde, the playwright; Nazimova; Yvonne Rainer; Wu Tsang; and ultimately the artists themselves.

In this exhibition both 'acts', *Toxic* and *Salomania*, are linked by a specially produced 'zine' for visitors that draws out the multiple forms of archival and theoretical research that accompanies each of Boudry/Lorenz's films. A live events programme proves a rich contextual framework for the artists' practice, further unpacking and expanding on the underlying themes of the works.

#### Biography

Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz have collaborated since 1998 and their work has been extensively exhibited internationally. Recent solo shows include Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers (Paris Triennale), 2012; Swiss off-site Pavilion, as part of *Chewing the Scenery*, Venice Biennale, 2011; *Les Complices*, Zurich, 2010; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, 2010.

*Toxic Play In Two Acts* is supported by Swiss Arts Council, Pro Helvetia and Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain with support in kind from Institut français du Royaume-Uni. The associated events programme is supported by Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. and Goethe-Institut London.

*Toxic* was co-produced by Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Paris Triennale 2012 and Electra, in the frame of the research residency at Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers. Electra is funded by Arts Council England.

[www.electra-productions.com](http://www.electra-productions.com)



## LIST OF WORKS

1. Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, *Toxic*, 2012, super 16mm film / HD, still. Courtesy of the artists, Ellen de Bruijne Projects and Galerie Marcelle Alix

2. Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, *Salomania*, 2009, installation with film and 11 photographs, 17'. Courtesy of the artists, Ellen de Bruijne Projects and Galerie Marcelle Alix

### SLG FIRST FLOOR GALLERIES

