

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

~~“I overheard two people
striking up a conversation
about the injustice
of working together”~~
**“I overheard two people
striking up a conversation
about the injustice
of working together”**

a project by Carla Herrera-Prats and Tyler Rowland

February 14 – March 21, 2010

Opening Sunday, February 14, 3-6 pm

Kunstverein NY @ Silvershed, 119W 25th Street, PH, New York 10001, NY

Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 12-6pm, and by appointment.

Special Events:

Sunday, February 14, 3-5pm: *Flying Elisha*, on Silvershed’s terrace rooftop.

Children and Valentiners welcome. Kites and warm drinks provided.

Friday, March 19th, 6:30pm: a reading by Larissa Harris and Nate Harrison.

Kunstverein NY is pleased to present the first joint exhibition of Carla Herrera-Prats and Tyler Rowland in New York, an investigation into the nature of collaboration and communication.

Both artists met in 2001 while attending CalArts. They started working together in 2006 when Herrera-Prats relocated to Boston to teach at the Museum School, and Rowland was teaching at Harvard University in Cambridge. This is the second version of their project, initially exhibited at GASP in Boston last year and annually realized on the date the first telephone patent was deposited.

I overheard two people... activates the work and relationship between two other Boston area residents, Alexander Graham Bell, well known as the inventor of the telephone, and his assistant Thomas Watson. After working together for two years, Bell and Watson filed the first telephone patent on February 14, 1876 amid much controversy, hours before another inventor, Elisha Gray, filed claim for a similar device. One month later, Bell successfully placed the first telephone call to his assistant with the invitation, “Mr. Watson—come here...I want you.”

Herrera-Prats and Rowland appropriate historical material surrounding the invention of the telephone and follow Bell’s non-linear inventive methodology--a practice that unfolds across his many drawings, idiosyncratic notes, scripted talks and narrative accounts. With these archives in mind, Herrera-Prats and Rowland enact their own research-based strategies to widen the original story. Among these associations are recent social developments around the telephone, such as contemporary prison environments, embodied in the semi-fictional story of a prisoner named Pat.

Transferring the aural experience of the telephone into a variety of sensorial media, both artists’ interventions include a participatory kite flying performance in celebration and historical recognition of Elisha Gray, or “the second best.” On March 18th, the artists’ partners will commemorate Bell and Watson’s relationship with a reading of the first telephone transcript between the inventors. Both structured and candid, this revisit combines scientific objectivity with the conversational, and very human, forms of transmission.

Carla Herrera-Prats was born in Mexico City. She addresses the often invisible cultural and economic transactions that flow within a transnational context. Her projects juxtapose photography and archival research to question the documentary value of both image and text.

Herrera-Prats received her MFA from CalArts and participated in the Whitney ISP in New York City. She is currently part of the collaborative CAMEL. Her recent exhibitions include El Centro de la Imagen, Mexico City; The Contemporary Museum, Baltimore; Art in General, and Artists Space, New York. She has also shown in Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, and Puerto Rico. She has been awarded grants from CalArts, the Van Lier Foundation, the Jumex Collection, and the LEF Foundation. She currently teaches at Cooper Union.

Tyler Rowland was born in Reno, NV and raised in Phoenix, AZ. His work examines the concepts of labor and production--such as physical activity, the hand-made, and the limits of a lone worker; and the movement of matter--such as raw materials, production/manufacturing, consumption, waste, recycling, gift-giving, and destruction.

Rowland holds an MFA from CalArts. He has shown at Murray Guy Gallery, New York City; GASP, Boston; More Fools in Town, Turin; LACE, and Eungie Joo's Six Months, LA. He currently teaches at Vassar College.

For more information or for visuals, please contact Mary Rinebold at mary@kunstverein.us, or visit www.kunstverein.us.

Special thanks to Patrick Meagher of [Silver Shed](#).

Kunstverein NY is an international platform for exhibitions, discussions, and the circulation of ideas. By the invitation of Krist Gruijthuisen and Maxine Kopsa, founders of [Kunstverein](#), the New York chapter joins a network of sister-organizations (in Amsterdam, Istanbul, and Milan), starting an open-dialogue with artists, curators, writers, and theorists working world-wide.