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The Poetics of Performatives

2MF in conversation with Kaitlin McDonough
June 25th, 2015 7pm

Mantra, interior monologues of long distance runners, voiced opinions of doctors, certain creation myths, experiments with water molecules, and a three letter word that led to epic love—this meeting will open a discussion on performative language and the potency of certain words to effect extralinguistic change.

We will look at the structure and characteristics of performative utterances to better understand the remarkable ways that saying can, at times, constitute doing .

Emphasis will be placed on the social requirements necessary for performatives to function as we question: what is demanded of the hearer if the performative is to have effect? is intentionality of the speaker necessary for the performative to work?

We will experiment by giving voice to a range of performative utterances so as to better muse upon how they work, when they work, and the fuzzy gray space between sound and substance.

Premeeting reading: “How Performatives Work” by John R. Searle, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 1989, Kluwer Academic Publishers

About the Artist:

Kaitlin McDonough paints exuberant abstractions, often incorporating objects and nontraditional supports. She received her MFA from Tyler School of Art and her BFA from Boston University, Summa cum laude. McDonough’s work has been exhibited throughout Italy—in Venice, Rome, Vicenza, Bologna, Verona—and in Boston, New York, and Serbia. She is the recipient of the Temple University Project Completion Grant and has participated in a residency at the Vermont Studio Center. McDonough is currently based in Brooklyn, New York and works as the Program Coordinator of the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture.

About 2MF:

2MF, co-run by artists Sonya Derman and Maria Stabio, is a practice that encourages proemotive and anteaademic conversation among artists in New York City. Collaborating each month with selected facilitating thinkers, 2MF organizes monthly community meetings – open and participatory experiences – alongside postmeeting discussion aired and archived at Clocktower Radio . More information is available at 2manyfeelings.com