

BASEMENT ED ROMA FORNIELES

25.10.2016

23.12.2016

We're thrilled to announce the new program and new aims of **BASEMENT ROMA**, the non-profit and self-sustained independent exhibition space run by **CURA**. and located in the basement of the magazine's editorial office in the heart of Prati's district in Rome.

With Truth Table, Montréal-based artist **Ed Fornieles**' first solo exhibition in Italy, BASEMENT ROMA also introduces its new collaboration with an international Advisory Board, composed by **Samuel Leuenberger**, founding director and curator of SALTS, Birsfelden, Switzerland; **João Mourão & Luís Silva**, co-directors of Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon; **Chris Sharp**, co-founder and co-director of Lulu, Mexico City; **Martha Kirszenbaum**, founding director and curator of Fahrenheit, LA.

"Highly responsive to the movement of information" – **Dorothy Howard** says, in the exhibition text – "Ed Fornieles' work operates within the logic of immersive simulations, enacting change through constructed environments and events. His ambitious, large-scale projects often involve cultural, social, and infrastructural production, making interventions that reconfigure the viewer's position and sense of self.

In Truth Table the gallery is converted into the provider of an experience: a new VR product that allows the viewer to occupy a changing host of bodies as they engage in a chain of sexual interactions. Within the cycle, the configuration of bodies constantly shifts, as does the viewer's perspective. Variables are randomized, moving from familiar to unfamiliar, possibly aligning with a viewer's own tastes and preferences, until inevitably drifting into the unknown and alien. In this experience, the user's default assumptions of sexual taste are obfuscated and abstracted, resulting in a leveling out, in which each type and form is given equal emphasis.

Mechanically speaking, the installation is generated by a randomizing algorithm, distinct from the sorts of algorithms that shepherd users' tastes in online social media platforms and content farms. Typically, these algorithms inspire an experience that has come to be known as the filter bubble: prior user choices are rendered into data, which are then analyzed and used to predict what sort of content the user might enjoy being offered. The filter bubble is thus a space in which an individual's views and aesthetic choices are compounded: their options are limited to those objects and opinions which already align with their taste. In this way, forms are reinforced and pushed to extremes as they avoid the friction of a counter point of view or disrupting image. The use of randomization in Truth Table pushes against this re-enforcing bubble; instead, equally distributed variables work to counteract expectations and predilections – the effect of which might at times feel jarring, as the rules that make up our image world are stripped back to reveal a mathematical model in its place.

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TRUTH TABLE

In this sense, unlike simulations which aim at advancing psychological or scientific models, Fornieles' installation instead offers users an experience more similar to a dream state, where scenarios play out as a disjointed version of their real world correlates, moving by their own momentum, while nonetheless implicating the viewer at each turn. Dormant phantoms lurk in the synapses, waiting to make themselves known.

Undergirding all of Ed Fornieles' work is an uncanny ability to tap into the deep structure of the human unconscious. The simulation on offer in Truth Table advances Fornieles' trajectory, negotiating the psychosomatic forms of relationality, implied by algorithmic content models, immersive virtual realities, and technologies of sexuality."

On the occasion of the opening BASEMENT ROMA also launches the new website, designed by **Studio Lhoq**, Philadelphia and a brand new bookshop, designed by the London-based artist and architect **Alessandro Bava**, featuring a selection of artists' books, editions and international independent publishers.

Special thanks to **LAND**

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Opening
Tuesday, October 25, 2016
6:30 – 9:30 PM

ED FORNIELES (born 1983, UK) is an artist based in Montréal, using a variety of different media including the Internet, sculpture, performance, film, and social media. Fornieles merges sophisticated social manipulation with a formal approach to the Internet and pop culture. Among recent solo exhibitions and performances: Truth Table, BASEMENT ROMA (Rome, 2016); DO DISTURB. Festival non-stop, Palais de Tokyo (Paris, 2016); Hack your body, upgrade your mind, Schirn Kunsthalle (Frankfurt, 2016); Workland: the fence is a narrow place, Chateau Shatto (Los Angeles, 2015); Jupiter Ascending, Carl Kostyal (Stockholm, 2015); Modern Family, Chisenhale Gallery (London, 2014); New York New York Happy Happy at the New Museum (New York, 2013); Pool Party Plays Itself, MOCAtv (Los Angeles, 2013); The Hangover Part II, Carlos/Ishikawa (London 2011). Selected group exhibitions include: Emotional Supply Chains, Zabudowicz Collection (London, 2016); Family State of Mind, Valentin (Paris, 2014); Meanwhile... Suddenly, and Then (curated by Gunnar Kvaran), 12th Biennale de Lyon (Lyon, 2012).

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