Colleen Asper and Ted Mineo in Conversation

Colleen Asper: You came up with the title Touché; what made you think of it?

Ted Mineo: Touché arose as a possible title when I was rooting around for words related to keyboards, which we were both making images of when we began to plan this show—though mine were the musical kind and yours the typing kind. Its use as an acknowledgement of touched-ness seems important.

CA: It does seem important. The papier-mâché letters I have been using so much in my work began as a way to pull texts from a virtual context—an email, a search page—and represent them, with cartoonish exaggeration, as something physical.

TM: In the keyboard paintings, I’m interested in touch as an expressive tool, as a means of controlling sound. My work in this show was built out of a pseudo-synesthetic translation that goes something like this: the taste of a confection I make and call Family Nuts was translated into Jazz Squiggle paintings, which could be misread as paintings inspired by music (or as paintings inspired by paintings that were inspired by music). The Jazz Squiggles then generated the paintings of keyboards, which are designed to seem as if they might be capable of producing the sort of sounds that would inspire a Jazz Squiggle painting.

CA: My work in this show began with an earlier 7’ x 9’ painting of Google’s search page with my name typed into the search bar, which I came to because I was trying to imagine the ‘man without qualities’ as a painting, as a self portrait. The fact that the painting was comprised entirely of text was at first incidental, but the slowness of painting that text made me increasingly sensitive to the physical movements actually involved in using an interface like Google, namely typing. This physical activity is deemed beside the point, the labor involved in writing is always described as cognitive, but the paintings in this show imagine what it would look like if that cognitive labor did take a physical from.

TM: There’s so much more we could go into right now, like why you painted the sides of that one painting blue, or about how Family Nuts are related to Giverny and Van Gogh. Or how Justin Timberlake apparently just bought a place in the building this show is happening in. Did you know I’m five days older than him?

I’m glad we’re BFFs and that I’ll always be able to rattle on about this stuff with you.

Colleen Asper is an artist, writer, and co-founder of Ad Hoc Vox, an ongoing series of discussions and events that address a wide range of issues in contemporary art (adhocvox.org). Ted Mineo is an artist, and the confectioner and proprietor of Family Nuts. The pair met at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1998, continued on to Yale University, and moved to Brooklyn after graduation, where they both now live and work. Their work has been shown internationally and they have collaborated in many capacities, including a recent curatorial project with Parlour, a nomadic exhibition series based in New York.

Art Production Fund (APF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to producing ambitious public art projects, reaching new audiences and expanding awareness through contemporary art. Projects include: SHOW, Vanessa Beecroft, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1998; PLAN B, Rudolf Stingel summer 2004, Grand Central’s Vanderbilt Hall and The Walker Art Center; Prada Marfa, Elmgreen & Dragset, Valentine, TX, 2005, permanent; Greeting Card, Aaron Young, Park Avenue Armony, 2007; Electric Fountain, Noble & Webster, Rockefeller Plaza, 2008; The Whitney Biennial, Park Avenue Armony, 2008; Kalup Linzy, Member’s Only, Prospect. 1 New Orleans, 2008; Scribble, Karl Haendel, 2009; ARTHADDS, Alex Katz, Shirin Neshat, Yoko Ono, New York City, 2010, PAUSE, Yoko Ono and T.J. Wilcox, The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, NV, ongoing; White Ghost, Yoshitomo Nara, Park Avenue, NYC, 2010; Rob Pruitt: Holy Crap, Sotheby’s, New York City, 2010.

Developed by United American Land and designed by renowned architects Gwathmey Siegel & Associates, Soho Mews comprises two separate residential buildings; one with an entrance on West Broadway and the second which fronts Wooster Street. They are connected by a sprawling private garden designed by award-winning Peter Walker Landscape Architects. The condominium features spacious lofts and townhouse residences, all with 10-foot ceilings. The building’s ample amenities include 24-hour doorman, fitness center, full concierge service by Luxury Attaché, on-site attended parking and in-building art information advisory service by Art Production Fund. Soho Mews is over 65% sold and available for immediate occupancy.

Special thanks to Soho Mews for generously donating the space to Art Production Fund.

For more information please contact Casey Fremont: casey@artproductionfund.org or 212 966 0193

November 11 - December 16 2010
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APF LAB 15 Wooster Street, New York City
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Or by appointment. Please call: 347 882 9175

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Co-Founders: Yvonne Force Villareal & Doreen Remen; Director: Casey Fremont

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