



PRESS RELEASE

**Cally Spooner, *Everything Might Spill*
illy Present Future Prize 2017 Exhibition
curated by Marianna Vecellio
November 2, 2018 – January 6, 2019**

Winner of the illy Present Future 2017 Prize with the work *Soundtrack for a Troubled Time*, 2017, acquired for the Collections of the Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea thanks to the Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT, **Cally Spooner** presents *Everything Might Spill* in the Manica Lunga project room, **from November 2, 2018 to January 6, 2019**. The project is curated by **Marianna Vecellio**.

Through a performative practice using tools such as writing, sound and film, Spooner stages absurd repetitions of today's political, economic and media rhetoric, in which the patriarchal order also controls time and the relative productivity of each person. Through references that include philosophy and the social sciences, the artist investigates the ways in which the pervasive diffusion of technology is altering both the body and mind of contemporary individuals.

"Cally Spooner - writes Marianna Vecellio, curator of the exhibition - explores the ways in which contemporary subjectivity and the human body are subject to continuous changes dictated by the technological condition. Through installations, writing and performance, her works analyze how the invisible violence spread in the digital age influences us. In addition, they examine the concept of physical and ontological erosion of the living being in a present dominated by digital data. Spooner's artistic research focuses on how "the advanced techno-capitalist apparatus threatens to drain life through the optimization of affects, bodies and language and asks how we could merge with this techno-apparatus, transforming and mobilizing this post-human alienation affirmatively." Her exhibitions and performances are anchored to feminist philosophical processes and they physically, acoustically and conceptually incorporate the concepts of durability, erosion, maintenance, destruction and collapse as practices of resistance. These strategies are adopted in opposition to sudden fluctuations in global markets, to the unstoppable flow of digital data, and to the imperative demand for productivity that capitalist society imposes on each individual."

In *Everything Might Spill*, 2018, a wall drawing baring the magnified image of a human organ is placed in relation to a fountain from which a purposely toxic liquid gushes out. The installation can be interpreted as an unsettling reflection on the human condition, subject to a growing and obsessive dependence on technology, to the point of moving towards uncontrollable and non-reversible mutations.

Cally Spooner's work was chosen by the technical jury of the award, assembled in the framework of Artissima 2017. The award was given by **Carlo Bach** (illycaffè artistic director), **Ilaria Bonacossa** (Artissima director) and by the jury composed by **Mary Ceruti** (executive director and curator at the Sculpture Center in New York), **Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev** (director of Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea) and **Luigi Fassi** (visual arts curator of the Steirischer Herbst festival in Graz and former coordinator of Present Future), which identified the winner among a group of 20 artists. The jury expressed the following motivation: "*Cally Spooner's performative work and investigation through different media explores the modalities of invisible violence in the digital age. Through her art, we understand how subjectivity and our own bodies change when shaped by the technological condition.*"

Since 2012 the illy Present Future Prize offers its winner the exceptional opportunity to exhibit at Castello di Rivoli, as well as to support her/his research. The award represents the company's desire to support the artistic community and young talents respectively in their growth path. Thanks to the contemporary vision of illycaffè and the active collaboration with the Castello di Rivoli, the illy Present Future Prize offers an important contribution to the affirmation of emerging artists and confirms the innovative role of Artissima. Winners of previous editions who have exhibited at Castello di Rivoli are: Vanessa Safavi, Santo Tolone and Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa (2012), Caroline Achaintre and Fatma Bucak (2013), Rachel Rose (2014), Alina Chaiderov (2015) and Cécile B. Evans (2016).

Biography

Cally Spooner (1983 Ascot, United Kingdom) is an artist and writer based between London and Athens. Winner of the *illy Present Future 2017 Prize*, Spooner received other important awards, including the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for artists in 2013, and an award for her multi-channel video installation *And You Were Wonderful, On Stage*, commissioned by Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and from the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, Troy, New York (2016). Recent solo shows and performances include *DRAG DRAG SOLO* (2018), at the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, *On False Tears and Outsourcing* (2016) at the New Museum in New York. In 2016 further solo exhibitions included *He wins every time, on time and under budget*, gb agency, Paris and *Bookclub 2.0, Zero*, Milan. In 2015 *THE ANTI-CLIMAX CLIMAX* was staged at the Bielefelder Kunstverein. In 2014 she presented the performance *He's in a Great Place!* at the Tate Modern in London, developed from the work *And You Were Wonderful, On Stage* (2014), while the previous year set up the *Seven Thirty Till Eight* exhibition at the Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen.

Her works have been included in major group exhibitions at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London (2017), the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2016), the Wysing Art Center, Cambridge (2016), the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2015), Kunstverein, Munich (2014), the Jeu de Paume, Paris and the KW Institute, Berlin (2013). She has also curated several exhibitions and events, including *Micro-Composition*, San Serriffe, Amsterdam (2017), *A Social Body Event*, Serpentine Gallery and Central Saint Martins, London (2017) and *An Intimate Symposium on Maintenance*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2017). Her writings include: *Monograph* (2017), *The New Elvis* (2015), *Collapsing in Parts* (2013) and *The Erotics of Public Possibility* (2012).

Press Office Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea

Manuela Vasco | press@castellodirivoli.org | tel. +39.0119565209

Brunella Manzardo | b.manzardo@castellodirivoli.org | tel. +39.0119565211

International Communications Advisor for the contemporary art program at Castello di Rivoli

Henriette Gallus | henriette.gallus@googlemail.com | tel. +43.6764369462

www.illy.com

Press Office illy – Attila&Co.

Valeria Sacchi | valeria.sacchi@attila.it | tel +39.0234970500

Fabrizio Brambilla | fabrizio.brambilla@attila.it | tel. +39.0234970731