

## Press release

### Jeanne Susplugas - Opening Night

The Emily Harvey Foundation  
537 Broadway, New York  
March 3-8, 2014

The Emily Harvey Foundation is pleased to announce *Opening Night*, a performing art exhibition by Jeanne Susplugas, from March 3 to March 8, 2014.

The exhibition stems from the history of the Emily Harvey foundation, a key player in the performing art scene and the last co-op established by artist George Maciunas in the late 60's, a founding member of the FLUXUS movement, who even turned his wedding into an art performance there. *Opening Night* is a salute to the entertainment world, a universe dear to Jeanne Susplugas's heart, which appears in glimpses throughout her work.

Jeanne Susplugas conducts a deep-dive analysis of today's society to reveal its sorrows and flaws. Her singular universe unveils an individual struggling with addictions, obsessive-compulsive disorders and a feeling of imprisonment, which are the consequences of our society's lifestyle and consumption patterns. The artist portrays human beings on the knife-edge between insanity and foresight, and who are constantly leaving an aura of doubt hovering as to their actual mental state.

Literature is an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the artist who built a repertoire of texts and sentences gleaned from her own extensive readings or from custom orders she placed with writers such as Marie Darrieussecq or Basile Panurgias. From her readings stems a body of works that she affixes on various mediums. Like a conductor, she is at the center of satellite projects that elaborated around themes originating from words. When it comes to public performance, the artist hires actors to perform her works, a way for her to keep a necessary distance.

*Opening Night* marks a fundamental turning point in Jeanne Susplugas's work, for it is the first time that the performance itself becomes the exhibition. This project showcases the artist's creative process by putting into play autonomous plastic elements within a unit of time and space (the movies *The Top of my Head* and *My Lille Lady*), sound pieces, texts and the looping recitation of texts from the French writer, Marie-Gabrielle Duc, by performers. The exhibition area is divided by a simple linear drawing on the floor into small habitable modules, each evoking the physical spaces of the works of art displayed and performed (the bedroom, the kitchen, and the bathroom).

The exhibition showcases two recurring themes in the artist's plastic vocabulary: homes and boxes. This is exemplified by the display of a box/suitcase giving rhythm to the space while making reference to Calder's suitcase. Calder was known for traveling between Paris and New-York with a suitcase containing his entire circus allowing him to recreate genuine art representations in each city. In *Opening Night*, Jeanne Susplugas steps into the sculptor's footsteps and stages components of a spectacle that plunge the audience into her peculiar and disturbing universe.

Laurence Bruguère, independent curator

The realization of the exhibition has been made possible by the support of the French Institute and the Languedoc-Roussillon region.



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