

## **YOUNGPROJECTS**

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### **Skazka by Stas Orlovski**

### **P.L.A.Y. with Things by Egill Sæbjörnsson**

*September 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 – February 12, 2016*

#### **Skazka**

**Sound by Steve Roden | Post-Production by Beau Leduc**

Inspired by the magical projections of 18th & 19th century Phantasmagoria shows, the Moldovan-born, LA-based **Stas Orlovski** has been combining traditional collage and drawing works with carefully constructed animation. The later is meticulously 'mapped' onto the surface of each collage to create a liminal third space. Soviet-era children's books, which are drawn from the artist's childhood, as well as Dutch botanical illustrations, Victorian printed ephemera and Modernist "debris" as the artist calls it, provide the basis for both, the collages and the animation. The result is a contemporary take on 19th century magic lantern performances, with eerie botanicals, floating figures, sudden rainstorms and much more. "[Orlovski's works] are odd, haunted still-lives from the rarified corners of nature and culture slowly," write curator Michael Duncan, "quietly, play unsettled, unsettling refrains."

For his exhibition at Young Projects Orlovski has created a large-scale stage set, much in the vein of a Bauhausian theatrical production, with larger-than-life silhouettes looming largely in a darkened space, taking over the entire room. Each not only 'receives' its own projection in a way that conveys a different facet of the overall narrative, but adds shadows to further delineate its sculptural properties. Taken as a whole, *Skazka* deals with memory, psychological projection, decay and regeneration.

**Steve Roden** has composed an original sound piece that accompanies Orlovski's installation in their second collaboration. Through chance and serendipity, poetic relationships occur between image and sound that appear to be choreographed if only for an instant.

In 2012, Orlovski was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to create a site-specific installation for *Drawing Surrealism*. Iterations of the project were reinstalled at VOLTA NY, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Traywick Contemporary and the Miami Project Art Fair. In

2014, Orlovski exhibited his latest animated work in concurrent solo exhibitions at the Pasadena Museum of California Art and Mixed Greens, NYC. Orlovski's multi-media installation "Chimera", is currently on view at the 56th Venice Biennale as part of "We Must Risk Delight", a collateral exhibition curated by Elizabeta Betinski at the Magazzino del Sale No. 3.

His work is represented in prominent public and private collections including the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Progressive Corporation, American Embassy in Brussels and the West Collection among others.

## Egill Sæbjörnsson P.L.A.Y. with Things

Born in Iceland and living in Berlin, **Egill Sæbjörnsson** has long been interested in the connection between mental and physical realities in his practice, first as a painter and musician, and later through video projections and sound works. Many of his site-specific works employ 'projection mapping,' where a static object becomes mobilized via custom-designed animations and video projections. Each comes alive as if it were conjured, often realizing actions that defy their own physical properties—a pencil draws by itself, a pair of old boots produce random forms, and a mischievous figure appears out of nowhere. Experiencing such works often leads to questions about the nature of the unified field and whether or not we can project our thoughts onto—and affect—objects in the real world. They are, in other words, a kind of thaumaturgy. However, like a good Buddhist teaching, they also belie a clear sense of humor and a concise slight-of-hand—qualities the artist says "only function when the viewer comes to the work with an openness and receptivity."

For his first gallery show in Los Angeles ("a place of filmmakers and healers" as he says) Sæbjörnsson will be presenting a half dozen site-specific installations from both past and present, including *Kugeln* (2008), *Ping Pong Dance* (2006), and *Out of Shoes Humans Grow* (2014)

Born 1973 in Reykjavik, Iceland. Lives in Berlin, DE. Egill Sæbjörnsson graduated from the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts (now the Icelandic Academy of the Arts) in 1997 and studied at the University of Paris, St. Denis, from 1995 to 1996. He has exhibited widely around the world including solo shows at: the studio of Willem de Kooning (invited by Robert Wilson and Lisa de Kooning), The Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Reykjavik and Frankfurter Kunstverein. He has also taken part in group shows including Hamburger Bahnhof Museum for Contemporary Art Berlin, the Katonah Museum of Art NY; The Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade; the Tadeusz Museum, Poland; the NGBK, Berlin; the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm; the Museum of Modern Art, Sydney and SMOCA, Arizona.

His works reside in dozens of private collections around the world

Works in the exhibition

(Left lobby [from outside] small projections)

**Egill Sæbjörnsson**

**The Picture Draws Us, 2014**

Single-channel video projection, micro projector, pencil, dimensions variable

**Egill Sæbjörnsson**

**Bonsai, 2014**

Bonsai plant, micro projector, dimensions: With 92 cm, depth: 140 cm, height: 90 cm (variable) Loop: 5 mins

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Right lobby, small collages

**Stas Orlovski**

**Pastoral II, 2014**

collage and ink on paper, 22 x 30 inches

**3 Heads and a Leg, 2010**

charcoal and gesso on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Swallows with Tree, 2014**

Ink, xerox transfer and collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Figure with Waves, 2014**

charcoal, graphite, xerox transfer and etching on paper, 15 x 9 3/4 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Swallows with Clouds, 2014**

charcoal, graphite and xerox transfer on paper, 15 1/4 x 11 1/4 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Figures, 2010**

charcoal and gesso on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Eye, 2014**

monoprint and collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Heads, Torso and Leg, 2010**

ink and collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Figure with Curtain, 2014**

charcoal, graphite, ink and xerox transfer on paper, 15 x 11 1/2 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Statue, 2014**

ink, collage and etching on paper, 15 x 10 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Dark Waves, 2014**

ink, charcoal and collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Shy Girl (Gold), 2010**

ink and collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches

**Stas Orlovski**

**Stas Orlovski**

**Heads, 2010**  
ink, collage and xerox transfer on paper,

15 x 11 inches

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Main room, single projection onto cut forms

**Stas Orlovski**

**Composition with Figures and Mirror, 2015**

Wood, stop-motion animation and sound, dimensions variable

Sound by Steve Roden

Post production by Beau Leduc

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Middle area

Stas Orlovski

Vertical "Mirror" element for Composition with Figures and Mirror, 2015

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Middle area, right [from the front]

**Stas Orlovski**

**Head, 2015**

Bronze, wood and stop-motion animation, micro LED projector

20 X 16 X 1 inches

Edition of 7 with 1 Artist Proof

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Middle area, left [from front]

**Stas Orlovski**

**Figure with Waterfall, 2015**

Wood, stop-motion animation and sound

85 X 70 inches

Sound by Steve Roden

Post production by Beau Leduc

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Back area, small back room to the left [from the front]

**Egill Sæbjörnsson**

**Out of Shoes Humans Grow, 2014**

Single-channel video projection, cowboy boots and sound

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Back area, large back room to the right [from the front]

**Egill Sæbjörnsson**

**The Box, 2005**

Bedsheet, cardboard box, bedsprings, book, fork, knife, spoon, plate, teacup, glass, teapot, original 18<sup>th</sup> Century Painting, picture frames, single-channel video projection, sound. Dimensions variable. Duration: 34 min