

Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom

December 14, 2007 – February 2, 2008



Sloss, Kerr, Rosenberg & Moore, 2007, video



Four Parallel Lines, 2007, video

Alexander Gray Associates presents an exhibition of video works by Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom. Through their collaborative work since the early 1990s, Carlson and Strom have brought together social, political, historical and formal concerns. These collaborations are notable for their community engagement, experimental form, technological experimentation, and cultural activism. Among their highly celebrated works are *Geyser Land* (2003), a multi-media installation and performance experience that took place on a Montana train ride; *West* (1997), at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and projects at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Creative Time, Sculpture Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Their collaborative practice will be the subject of mid-career survey at the DeCordova Museum of Art in 2009.

On exhibit is *Sloss, Kerr, Rosenberg & Moore* (2007), a video made in collaboration with four practicing New York City attorneys John Sloss, Chet Kerr, Scott Rosenberg and Thomas Moore. The work features the lawyers performing a movement and vocal score that references their work and lives. The rhythmic sequences illustrate the performative aspects of litigating, the pressures experienced while working inside the juridical system, the contest, the service and ultimately the lawyers' individual humanity. Highly formal in its spatial design and patterning, the work becomes a 21st Century folk dance, ritualizing and capturing the essences of argument, oral representation, and group dynamics.

Also on exhibit is *Four Parallel Lines* (2007), a video installation made in collaboration with four day laborers, Jose Bautista, Joel Gomez, Lisandrow Vicente and Carlos Hernandez. Four parallel lines are drawn on a stretch of Pacific beach using 6 x 2 inch lumber, drawing on Walter De Marias's 1968 seminal earthwork. During the scene the ocean eventually washes the workers' line drawings away, with the water resembling a white paint spill. With this work, Carlson and Strom deploy art historical references to re-frame the lives of immigrants, linking the near-invisibility of their labor to the development of post-Colonial theory and Modernist tendencies of invention.

Ann Carlson's award-winning, performance-based works are renowned for expanding the boundaries of dance and choreography. She has performed internationally since the late 1980s, including commissions from the Whitney Museum, Creative Time, the Walker Art Center, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; and is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including the Rockefeller Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Doris Duke Trust, the CalArts/Herb Alpert Award, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2006, she was a Bunting Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University.

Collaborative in content and process, Mary Ellen Strom's video works have blurred lines between activism and art history, media and representation. Strom's work has been exhibited in a wide range of venues, including the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Sculpture Center; the Walker Art Center; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, among others. The specific venues and contexts contribute to and are part of the work's content. The work is often produced in collaboration with the people who inhabit a place, representing a range of cultural perspectives. Strom has received numerous grants and fellowships, including Artadia, the Fund for Art and Dialogue; Art Matters, Arts International, the National Endowment for the Arts, the LEF Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Creative Capital, New York State Council on the Arts, residencies at Bellagio Center, PS1-MoMA, the Headlands, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Strom teaches at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery and advising firm based in New York. Our exhibition program focuses on mid-career visual artists who emerged in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Through consulting and collection advising, we provide expertise for our individual and corporate clients. Our ultimate goal is to provide a direct experience with Modern and contemporary art that encourages discourse around art's role in the advancement of culture. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM.