

KARL HOLMQVIST

TUFF LOVE

April 13 - June 17, 2016

Opening Wednesday, April 13 from 6-9PM

Performance with Stefan Tcherepnin 7PM

TUFF LOVE is an exhibition with work by Karl Holmqvist consisting of two large-scale sculptures in a site-specific installation, a short film, a live performance and an artist's book. Two steel sculptures constructed of I-beams prosaically spell out the exhibition's title in two parts: TUFF. LOVE. As both words and sculpture, the works reflect Holmqvist's interest in rearticulating poetic form as a material for visual art and the literal articulation of the exhibition's spatial boundaries. In Bachelard's *Poetics of Space*, he describes the duality of subject and object as iridescent and unceasingly active in poetry's inversions. ...where the limits of one's language and the space of possible creation overlap. In Holmqvist's work, poetic creation isn't necessarily narrated for himself, but discovered as potential in the material of language itself.

Through readings, sculpture, painting, installation and performance, Holmqvist's work is given along with and in language, not formed separately from it. Here, words sourced from pop culture and their subsequent arrangement and intonation are prioritized over their literal meaning or origin. Spoken words take on the volume of sculpture. A word is a sculpture a sculpture a word. Holmqvist's interest in the structural composition of words draws from the capacity for the re-signification of language through multiple forms of deployment.

There will be a short film made of the installation of the new sculptures at the Power Station as well as an artist's book designed by Studio Manuel Raeder in Berlin. Finally, as part of the opening night of the exhibition Holmqvist together with New York electronic music composer and performer Stefan Tcherepnin will stage a cover version of Discipline by industrial music legends Throbbing Gristle as a live performance.

Karl Holmqvist is a Swedish artist (b. 1964, Västerås, Sweden) living and working in Berlin. He studied literature and linguistics at Stockholm University. Recent exhibitions include; *READ DEAR*, Camden Arts Centre; *HURRY UP. CHASE IT DOWN*, Sismografo, Porto; *Rameau's Nephews*, Nasjonalmuseet Oslo, Norway; *The Reluctant Narrator*, Museo Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal; *The Library Vaccine*, Artists Space, New York; *New Ways of Doing Nothing*, Kunsthalle Vienna, Austria; *Give Poetry A Try*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; *Infinite Jest*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany; *The Visit*, Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway; *Ecstatic Alphabets/Heaps of Language*, Museum of Modern Art, New York; *The Sun Shines for Everyone*, Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; *IllumiNations*, The 54th Venice Biennial and *Hymn to Pan*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany.

THE POWER STATION