

Erika Vogt

Stranger Debris Roll Roll Roll

Los Angeles–based artist Erika Vogt (b. 1973 East Newark, NJ) uses a range of media and techniques to explore the mutability and variable functions of images and objects. Within her installations, she fuses elements of sculpture, drawing, video, and photography to produce multilayered image spaces. Her works challenge prescribed art-making systems, conflating and confusing their logic, as sculptures take on the properties of drawing and photographs take on the nature of film. Building on her background in experimental filmmaking, Vogt’s visually dense videos take a nonlinear approach and collapse figure, image, space, and action on screen. For these works, Vogt uses a combination of both still and moving images, digital and analog technologies, and playfully reprises drawings and objects from her previous projects in her videos. In her recent work, exemplified by installations such as *Notes on Currency*, *The Engraved Plane*, and *Grounds and Airs* (all 2012), Vogt took as her subject the ritual use and exchange of objects, such as currency, and investigated the empathetic relationship between objects and people.

“Stranger Debris Roll Roll Roll,” Vogt’s first solo museum presentation, will continue this recent investigation in a new installation for the New Museum’s Lobby Gallery. For this work, the artist has arranged a dense composition of cast plaster objects that float in the gallery space like a field of debris. Some of the objects suggest cast-off relics; others evoke tools of an indeterminate functionality. A series of vertically aligned pulleys levitate these sculptural forms above the floor, demarcating the gallery space as a volumetric drawing through which the viewer can navigate. Included within this surreal landscape are several of Vogt’s most recent videos, in which images of her drawings and sculptural works are interspersed with scenes of objects being interacted with and exchanged. Graphic aspects of the videos are echoed in the installation itself, creating a tension between the objects and images on screen and their deployment as physical presences within the space of the gallery.

“Erika Vogt: Stranger Debris Roll Roll Roll” is curated by Jenny Moore, Associate Curator, and Margot Norton, Assistant Curator.

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