BODY WITHOUT ORGANS
CURATED BY RIVES GRANADE

Victoria Duffee
Carroll Dunham
Fabian Marti
Edi Rama
Poole Simon
Daniel Payavis
J Parker Valentine

JULY 8TH - AUGUST 19TH 2017
OCHI PROJECTS
3301 W WASHINGTON BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90018
BODY WITHOUT ORGANS
JULY 8 – AUGUST 19

When you will have made him a body without organs, then you will have delivered him from all his automatic reactions and restored him to his true freedom.

They you will teach him again to dance wrong side out as in the frenzy of dance halls and this wrong side out will be his real place.

- Antonin Artaud, *To Have Done With the Judgement of God*, 1947

In late November 1947 Artaud wrote a radio play in which the Body without Organs is first mentioned. The play, a scatologically mystical rant against ideals and morality set in the mold of surreal poetry, posits the Body without Organs as the remedy par excellence for the falsehoods of reality. Just one year prior, Artaud had been released into the care of his friends from the charge of Dr. Gaston Ferdière, who for years had administered no less than 58 electroshock treatments to his patient, with some of the convulsions being so violent as to fracture a vertebrae in Artaud’s neck. Most certainly Artaud had learned through such treatments to make himself a Body without Organs. When one no longer needs the morality of oppression that biology forces upon oneself then one can shed one’s innards and begin rebuilding from the outside in.

The French psychoanalyst and philosophers Felix Guattari and Gilles Deleuze took up Artaud’s Body without Organs and used it as a metaphor in describing a vast amount of ideas - “a biological and political experimentation, incurring censorship and repression.” One of the strengths of the BwO image is its irreducibility and simultaneously overloaded meaning. The Body without Organs demands that we embrace diversity and complexity, acknowledge these givens, and avoid the tendency of categorical reduction into false ideologies. The body is made up of individual pieces, but the sum of these individual pieces themselves do not define it in any identifiable way. The body cannot be reduced to the sum of its parts.

The Body without Organs is often compared to an egg. “That why we treat the BwO as the full egg before the extension of the organism and the organization of the organs, before the formation of the strata; as the intense egg defined by axes and vectors, gradients and thresholds, by dynamic tendencies involving energy transformation and kinematic movements involving group displacement, by migrations: all independent of accessory forms because the organs appear to function here only as pure intensities.” The Body without Organs is potentiality, it is the body’s potential to develop before the organs have coalesced from the cosmic mush inside the egg.

The Body without Organs is a shell. Once you remove the insides then the shell can function with a new utility.
It is true that in moments not dissimilar to the one in which we are now living a Body without Organs is urgently needed. As Joseph Beuys once stated: “The human body is a microcosm of the world. In times of crisis we feel our being to be threatened. We must get beyond the body to achieve an outside view of the world.”

~ Rives Granade 2017

ARTISTS

Victoria Duffee
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Daniel Payavis
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Poole Simon
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3 Ibid., p. 153.

Fabian Marti
*Hanged Man (David)*, 2016
Epoxy, Pigments, Steel Cable
78 3/4 x 20 1/2 x 1 inches
Fabian Marti

*Deep Egg (transcendental turn)*, 2016
Epoxy, silver gelatin print (photogram), mounted on aluminum
81 x 56 inches
Fabian Marti
_Ojai, 2015_
Reduction fired ceramic
18 x 10 x 10 inches
Fabian Marti

Ventura, 2015

Reduction fired ceramic

15 x 12 x 12 inches
Fabian Marti
*Mira Monte*, 2015
Reduction fired ceramic
15 x 13 x 12 inches
Edi Rama

*Untitled (874)*, n.d.

Mixed media on paper

Paper: 11 3/4 x 8 1/4 inches

Frame: 16 13/16 x 13 3/8 inches
Edi Rama
*Untitled (808)*, 2007
Mixed media on paper
Paper: 11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in.
Frame: 16.75 x 13.5 inches
Edi Rama

*Untitled (1282)*, 2015
Mixed media on paper
Paper: 11 3/4 x 8 1/4 inches
Frame: 16.75 x 13.5 inches
Edi Rama
*Untitled (530)*, 2011
Mixed media on paper
Paper: 11 3/4 x 8 1/4 inches
Daniel Payavis

*BBIS*, 2017

oil on canvas

35 inches x 24 inches
Daniel Payavis
*Tortas Grove*, 2017
oil on linen
45 inches x 35 inches
J Parker Valentine

*Untitled*, 2016

graphite, colored pencil, ink, muslin, copper, thread, clay coated fiberglass

78 x 34 x 1 in.
J Parker Valentine

*Untitled*, 2017

graphite, colored pencil, muslin, linseed oil, nails, site-specific wall drawing

47 x 70 inches
Victoria Duffee

*Agatha*, 2017

India ink on silk, embroidered denim, handwoven nylon, and cast aluminum

36 x 24 inches
Victoria Duffee
*Just like a..., 2017*
reactive dye on silk, vinyl, stainless steel
70 x 40 inches
Poole Simon

The universe never gives us more than we can handle, 2017

2 x 2.25 x 2.25 inches

Found object
Poole Simon

Sandy

1 x 1 x 1.25 inches

Found Sea Turtle Egg
Poole Simon

What is the given of walking
29 x 17.25 x 4 inches
Found object
Carroll Dunham
*Untitled (5/20/1999)*
pencil on paper
3" x 5"
1999
private collection