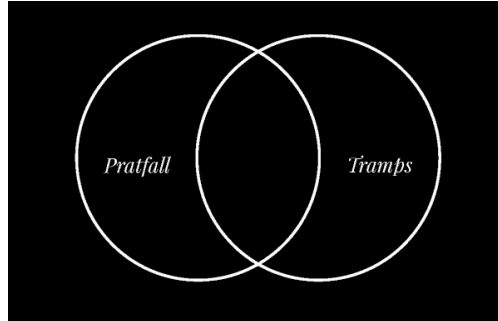


rachel uffner



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Tammy Rae Carland
Jamie Isenstein
Sara Greenberger
Rafferty
Mary Reid Kelley

Curated by Rachel Reese

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center February 6–April 11, 2015

How do we begin to qualify and draw connections between artists and artworks dealing with or about ‘funniness’ as subject matter, however individualized? Can artworks, as physical objects and documents, themselves be funny or alternatively cringe-worthy, rather than just about humor? *Pratfall Tramps*—featuring Tammy Rae Carland, Jamie Isenstein, Sara Greenberger Rafferty and Mary Reid Kelley—investigates an artwork’s comedic desire. Each artist’s personal visual styles and narratives ‘tramp’ comedic avenues as a means to explore their sculptures, videos, and photographs through deviations from ‘norms’ (whether cultural, social, logical, or linguistic): a candle cannot evade its own snuffing.

The presented artistic contexts and conceptual positions in these four female artists’ practices include references to mainstream comedy’s systems and authors, and some are more explicitly gendered than others with literal and implied connections to the female body.

Pratfalls—bodily or object-based—are funny because they are a paradox. While suggesting lack of control, there is indeed complete and conscious control at play: in comedy, the performer can rewire failure as success. The pratfall reveals an innate human truth, and comedy is exactly about incorporating such folly, or potential for failure, into our actions.

