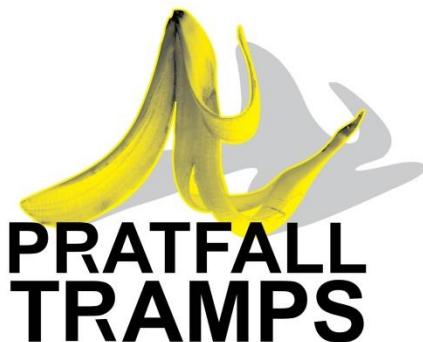




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Sara Greenberger Rafferty, *Mono*, 2014, digital video with sound, 3:30 min, starring Susie Sokol, courtesy the artist and Rachel Uffner Gallery

curated by Rachel Reese

Tammy Rae Carland  
Jamie Isenstein  
Sara Greenberger Rafferty  
Mary Reid Kelley

**Exhibition Dates:** February 6-April 11, 2015

**Media preview:** Thu, February 5, 2-4pm

**Member preview:** Fri, February 6, 6-7pm

**Opening reception:** Fri, February 6, 7-9pm

**Atlanta**—December 8, 2014—Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (The Contemporary) is pleased to present [Pratfall Tramps](#), on view **February 6-April 11, 2015**, featuring work by Tammy Rae Carland, Jamie Isenstein, Sara Greenberger Rafferty and Mary Reid Kelley. *Pratfall Tramps* is curated by Rachel Reese of The Contemporary.

How do we begin to qualify and draw connections between artists and artworks dealing with or about 'funny' 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 work by 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)—for example, 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.

Exhibition press packets and high res images are available. Contact Rachel Reese, [reese@thecontemporary.org](mailto:reese@thecontemporary.org) or 404.688.1970 x 216

### **Exhibition performances of *Magic Lamp*:**

Jamie Isenstein will perform her inhabited sculpture titled *Magic Lamp* (2005):

Fri, Feb 6, 7:30-8:30pm (exhibition opening)

Sat, Feb 7, 2-4pm

### **Exhibition Catalog:**

An exhibition catalog is forthcoming with book release to be scheduled. Preorders will be available. Essays by Rachel Reese, exhibition curator, and Alex Robins, PhD in Philosophy at Emory University. Robins' research focuses on American philosophy and aesthetics including theories of comedy. Full color artwork reproductions and installation images. With additional contributions by exhibiting artists, and Dr. Peter McGraw, director of the Humor Research Lab (HuRL) at the University of Colorado Boulder and Associate Professor of Marketing and Psychology at UC Boulder. Designer: K. Tauches

### **Special Exhibition Programming:**

In addition to the exhibition, there are two programs in conjunction with *Pratfall Tramps*: *The Gilda Radner Research & Translation Center* (GRRTC) in our Resource Room, and *Letters & Tomatoes*, an ART PAPERS curated pop-up retail shop in our gallery SHOP. See full details and descriptions listed below.

### **The Gilda Radner Research and Translation Center (GRRTC)**

The GRRTC is a site-specific project organized by scholar Alex Robins in conjunction with the exhibition *Pratfall Tramps*. This project has no official affiliation to the Gilda Radner Estate, but rather stems from an admiration of her comedy. Gilda Radner (1946-1989) was an early cast member of Saturday Night Live, a 1992 inductee into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and very very funny person. The GRRTC is an unofficial academic-ish platform for the analysis of Radner's life and humor.

Several of the exhibiting artists reference Radner in their artworks and visitors are invited to learn more about Radner's career and funniness at the Center through a variety of didactic and interpretive materials. Please drop by and learn, translate, or contribute. This space is free and open to the public.

Breaking News: Atlanta-based artist Lydia Walls will serve as the GRRTC's inaugural Artist-In-Residence and will be interpreting materials and creating artworks for the program both on- and off-site.

GRRTC Office Hours with Lydia Walls: March 19, 2014, 6-8pm

GRRTC Office Hours with Alex Robins: April 1, 2014, 3-5pm

### **Letters & Tomatoes**

**A pop-up store, *Letters and Tomatoes*, curated by ART PAPERS** to coincide with *Pratfall Tramps* will feature a selection of magazines, editions, merchandise and collectibles, all of which channel, consider or reflect themes addressed in the exhibition. Because avant-garde journals have been a traditional venue for satire and other comic - and melancholic - communication, printed matter will feature strongly in the store, as will products conceived to benefit print initiatives. The presentation will also introduce the activities of specialized periodicals not otherwise commercially available in Atlanta, while highlighting the entwined legacy of radical publishing, and the tropes and tragedies of humor.

### **Public Programs:**

#### **Contemporary Talks: Jamie Isenstein**

Saturday, February 7, 11am

Isenstein is an exhibiting artist in *Pratfall Tramps*.

Find her bio and lecture details [HERE](#).

#### **Film Love**

Friday, February 20, 7-9pm

Andy Ditzler curates a selection of films that speak to themes present in *Pratfall Tramps*.

Films TBA

**Contemporary Kids: Comedy Camp**

Saturday, March 7, 11 am-12:30pm

Children of all ages welcome for a morning of comic activities: open mics for joke-making, whoopee cushions, banana peels, and whipped cream pies abound!

**Gilda Radner Research & Translation Center, Office Hours with Lydia Walls**

Thursday, March 19, 6-8pm

Join Artist-In-Residence Lydia Walls in the GRRTC to learn, translate, or contribute.

**Gilda Radner Research & Translation Center, Office Hours with Alex Robins**

Wednesday, April 1, 3-5pm

Join Scholar-In-Residence Alex Robins in the GRRTC to learn, translate, or contribute.

**Curator tour with Rachel Reese**

Thursday, April 9, 6pm

***Pratfall Tramps* Catalog Release**

Date and Time TBA

**Exhibition Graphic Designer:** K. Tauches

**Contact:** Rachel Reese, [rreese@thecontemporary.org](mailto:rreese@thecontemporary.org), 404.688.1970 x 216

Exhibition press packets and high res images are available.

**Social:** #pratfalltramps



Jamie Isenstein, *Magic Lamp*, 2005, plaster, gold leaf finish, epoxy, velvet curtain magic light bulb, "Will Return" sign or arm Dimensions variable, Image courtesy artist and Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York  
Collection Stefano Basilico, NYC

**About Atlanta Contemporary Art Center:**

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collecting institution dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists. The Contemporary creates a diverse cultural landscape for artists, arts professionals, and the art-interested public through its exhibitions, public and educational programming, and Studio Artist Program. Visit us [online](http://www.thecontemporary.org) to learn more.

535 Means Street NW | Atlanta, GA 30318 | 404.688.1970 | [www.thecontemporary.org](http://www.thecontemporary.org)