

Ed Osborn *Albedo Prospect*

Nov 6 – 10, 2012
bitforms gallery nyc

Closing Reception: Friday, Nov 9, 6:00 – 8:30 PM
Gallery Hours: Tue – Sat, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

bitforms gallery and ISSUE Project Room are pleased to announce a solo exhibition with American artist Ed Osborn. The exhibit features "Albedo Prospect", a video installation considering the polar imaginary, and its characteristic spatial and geographic disorientation. Projected as a video triptych, the work is a study of glacial landscapes in the Svalbard archipelago as well as the crackling sounds of its physical transformation.

In this special New York premiere, the *Floating Points* speaker system from ISSUE Project Room is transported to a gallery setting, surrounding Osborn's arctic vistas with an eight-channel sound space. Originally scheduled to debut in ISSUE Project Room's historic 1926 theater, the exhibition marks bitforms gallery's first collaboration with the non-profit, whose downtown Brooklyn space is presently under reconstruction. "At first I wasn't sure how the architectural damage in August to our space would affect my project with Ed Osborn," says curator Stephan Moore of ISSUE Project Room. "Now, for us to present the piece at bitforms gallery, instead of a live performing arts context, "Albedo Prospect" can inhabit the temporal space of five days rather than just one night. As a result, we'll look more closely at the visual philosophies behind Osborn's dynamic work from the Arctic."

The construction of viewpoint on the Svalbard environment is generative, pulling from a databank of very personal audio and video clips that capture the landscape as a dynamic system. Shot on location at sea and ashore in the archipelago, Osborn's sound score includes ambient and underwater recordings. The project is based in part on accounts of a 1931 airship flight to the high Arctic from which the writer Arthur Koestler filed wireless reports. Though his newspaper dispatches from this journey are part of the public record, the actual radio transmissions have been lost. "These broadcasts were noted for their vivid and entrancing depictions of the terrain, in which Koestler found many ways to repeatedly describe the largely invariant scene of ice and snow," says Osborn. "Here the space of those vanished broadcasts is used as a starting point to re-imagine and navigate a site of quiet spectacle."

Albedo is the fraction of sunlight that is reflected from any surface it hits. Polar regions have the world's highest albedo measurements due to their concentrations of snow and ice; most heat and light are reflected away. "Albedo Prospect" is a search that takes place along a horizon in flux. It frames a mental image of place and releases it into the light of a journey, only to be recollected in hindsight.

CONCURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS WITH ED OSBORN

Collection View: *Night Sea Music*

Sep 1 – Nov 4, 2012; SF MoMA, San Francisco, CA

***Standing Wave* (solo exhibition)**

Nov 14 – Dec 14, 2012; Martin Art Gallery, Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA

***Reconsidering* (group exhibition)**

Sep 20, 2012 – Jan 4, 2013; Green Space, TF Greene Airport, Warwick RI

***Standing Wave* (solo exhibition)**

Sep 20 – Oct 10, 2012, Chazan Gallery, Providence RI

Production support for "Albedo Prospect" provided by EMPAC, Brown University, and the Arctic Circle Residency Program.

Biography

Ed Osborn (b. 1964, Helsinki) is known for sound art installations that travel the distance between sculpture, radio, video, performance, and public projects. His works combine a visceral sense of space, aurality, and motion with a precise economy of materials. Ranging from rumbling fans and sounding train sets to squirming music boxes and delicate feedback networks, Osborn's kinetic and audible pieces function as resonating systems that are by turns playful and oblique, engaging and enigmatic.

Osborn has performed, exhibited, lectured, and held residencies throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. The recipient of many awards including a DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Stipendium and a Guggenheim Fellowship, he holds an MFA from Mills College and is on the faculty of Brown University.

ISSUE Project Room is a pioneering performance center, presenting projects by both emerging and established experimental artists that expand the boundaries of artistic practice and stimulate critical dialogue about art and culture in the broader community. ISSUE plays a vital role in NYC's cultural ecology, facilitating the commission and premiere of more than 20 new works each year and presenting a diverse array of artists working across the disciplines of music, sound, dance, performance, literature, video, and film.

For images and more information, please visit:

www.bitforms.com

www.issueprojectroom.org

www.roving.net

Directions to bitforms gallery

Nearest subway is the C/E to 23rd St in Chelsea

bitforms gallery is devoted to emerging and established artists who embrace new media and contemporary art practice.