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Contact: David Mitchell, 716-856-2717, david@cepagallery.org

BABY'S ON FIRE—AN EARLY CAREER SURVEY OF ARTIST RACHEL RAMPLEMAN



Pink Wrecks, Rachel Rampleman, 2014

Buffalo, NY— CEPA Gallery and Squeaky Wheel are pleased to announce *BABY'S ON FIRE*—the first major gallery survey of Brooklyn-based artist Rachel Rampleman.

Born and raised in the suburbs of the Midwest, Rampleman's various bodies of work explore subjects like gender, artifice, and spectacle through the tinge of a very American lens. Part directorial, part curatorial, and part anthropological, she probes into oft-overlooked elements of American culture to reveal an expanded landscape of American life. Her astute observations— awash with empathy and rife with psychological complexity—hint at an underlying dissonance that straddles the absurd.

Rampleman's work frequently showcases strong female personalities—women who are simultaneously aberrant and superhuman—who challenge the common clichés of masculinity and femininity and who often assume roles typically associated with men. This is a landscape where sexual braggadocio, heavy-metal rock stardom, or muscularity are characteristic of feminine prowess.

Working primarily with time-based media, Rampleman has made work ranging from documentary style videos such as *Poison (My Sister Fucked Bret)*—her sister's recounting of her teenage sexploits with hair metal rock icon Bret Michaels—to experimental videos made from footage she captured of the world's first and only all female Mötley Crüe tribute band to karaoke-style appropriations of archival footage of female bodybuilders from the 1980s-90s.

For her survey, Rampleman's prolific body of work will be featured in every gallery of CEPA's Market Arcade complex. In addition, she will be the inaugural artist for Squeaky Wheel's new storefront window gallery—viewable 24 hours a day/7 days a week from Main Street—where she'll present a newly created multi-media display. This collaborative effort with Squeaky Wheel will also include screenings of her short films in their newly christened microcinema.

On the occasion of *Baby's on Fire*, a limited edition artist book—published by Linoleum Press for CEPA Gallery—will be made available. The book will feature essays and contributions by Astria Suparak, Paul Pfeiffer, Jennifer & Kevin McCoy, Alex Young, An Paenhuysen, Godart Bakkers, and Charlotte Van Buylaere, among others.

Please join us on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 7-10pm for an artist reception at CEPA Gallery and Squeaky Wheel in our Market Arcade galleries located at 617 Main Street in downtown Buffalo.

Related programming and scheduling will be announced in the coming weeks. Images available by request.

About Rachel Rampleman (www.rachelrampleman.com)

Rachel Rampleman studied at New York University's Steinhardt School of Art & Art Professions (MFA in Studio Art) and the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (BFA in Electronic Media). Best known for her witty and acerbic video work challenging gender stereotypes and constructions of "feminine" identity, she has had solo and group shows as well as screenings in New York at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Socrates Sculpture Park, Envoy Enterprises, Cleopatra's, Flux Factory, SPRING/BREAK Art Fair, the Governors Island Art Fair, Cynthia Broan Gallery, NP Contemporary Art Center, The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, The Warehouse Gallery, 80 Washington Square East Gallery, Tandem, Art Gotham, Rosenburg Gallery, and Cantor Film Center. Internationally, her work has been shown at the Shanghai Biennale (Brooklyn Pavilion, 2012-13) in China, JAM in Bangkok, Thailand, and throughout Europe at Monte Arts Centre (Antwerp, Belgium), Art Cinema OFFoff (Ghent, Belgium), C/O Berlin, Die Fruhperle, and The Secret Cabinet (Berlin, Germany).

About CEPA Gallery (www.cepagallery.org)

Founded in 1974, CEPA is celebrating its 40th anniversary season as Western New York's only center for contemporary photo-related art. Located in Buffalo's historic Theater District, CEPA has evolved from a small presenting venue into a full service arts center with an international presence. It has extensive experience curating major professional exhibitions, commissioning new projects, and promoting the work of important, often under-recognized artists. CEPA's recent merger with Big Orbit Gallery has expanded the context and interpretation of its mission-related focus on contemporary photography, to include Big Orbit's penchant towards visual art, new media, sound, and installation art. Together, CEPA and Big Orbit will continue their shared commitment to servicing artists and the artistic practice, to engaging audiences with exhibitions of interest, and to informing the larger not-for-profit cultural field as to what's groundbreaking in the visual arts. In addition to visual arts programming, CEPA's growing, award-winning Education Program engages well over 1,000 children and adults each year with programs focused on traditional darkroom, digital arts, and technology.

About Squeaky Wheel (www.squeaky.org)

Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Arts Center has a mission to continue a legacy of innovation in media arts through access, education, and exhibition. We envision a community that uses electronic media and film to celebrate freedom of expression and diversity of voice. Established in 1985, Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Arts Center remains as the only organization in Western NY with a roster of education, equipment access, and exhibition programming dedicated to explore film & digital media arts. Entering our 30th year of existence, our reputation in the media arts field continues to grow nationally and internationally. We have received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts, and the Regional Economic Development Council (2014 for Capital Equipment Purchases + 2015 towards the Education Services). We have won awards for Best Workshops of Any Kind (2010); Best Curation (2012); Best Youth Workshops (2013) from regional publication, Buffalo Spree Magazine. In 2014, Squeaky Wheel was nominated Cultural Organization of the Year by the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York.

Exhibition: *BABY'S ON FIRE*

Artist: Rachel Rampleman

Dates: April 11-May 30, 2015

Location: CEPA Gallery/Squeaky Wheel, 617 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14203

There is an opening night reception on April 11, 2015 from 7:00-10:00pm. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Images available by request. All work included in this exhibition will be available for purchase. Inquiries regarding the acquisition of work featured in this exhibition should be directed to sean@cepagallery.org.