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## OR GALLERY BERLIN: RACHELLE SAWATSKY- MIXED PICTURES

by Redia Soltis on 2011/06/07 in Art, Events



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Rachelle Sawatsky

**Mixed Pictures**

11 June - 27 August, 2011

Reception June 10, 7:00PM

Or Gallery Berlin presents two new exhibitions opening June 10, both of which employ subtle alterations and superimpositions to work against a simple understanding of the picture.

Rachelle Sawatsky's *Mixed Pictures* is part of the artist's recent series of works employing 35mm slides, most of which have been acquired second-hand via online sales and other sources. Using the simple tools of a hole-punch, matting tape and doubled projections, Sawatsky produces a series of antagonisms in the images; at times painterly, other times only barely perceptual. In one instance, a series of amateur photographs taken aboard a U.S. naval ship is contaminated by a tiny green shape superimposed over each of the slides. Through the course of the photographs, this small blemish in the image transitions from a minor distraction to a focus of the viewer's attention, principally by remaining an unchanging element in the picture frame.

Hadley+Maxwell's *...Um* (2006) is a video of nearly 11 minutes in length depicting a lit light bulb on the end of a simple short black cord. Playing out a kind of absurd and minimal drama, the bulb is subjected to a series of "experiments that probe the theatrical and poetic possibilities of a bare light bulb, a projection and a shadow". The video is projected through a real bulb that hangs unlit in the space, offering a static one to one counterpart to the video image. At times the physical bulb seems illuminated by its video twin, other times it hangs solemnly like a comedic "straight man" in contrast to its writhing "funny man" video partner. *...Um* was originally shown as part of the artists' 2006 solo exhibition *Deleted Scenes* at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery.

Rachelle Sawatsky is based in Vancouver, Canada. Hadley+Maxwell have been collaborating since 1997 and are based in Berlin, Germany.

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