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Loretta Fahrenholz

Implosion

30 August – 04 October 2014

Opening: 29 August 2014

Implosion

HDV, 2011, 30 min.

Text: *Implosion*, Kathy Acker 1983

with: Edwin Figueroa, Ryan Lawrence, Robert Macaraeg, Murphy Maxwell, Park McArthur

Camera: Loretta Fahrenholz, Sound: Travis Houldcroft, Music: Timo Ellis

Color grading: Kilian Hirt, Sound mixing: Steffen Martin, Titles: Lina Grumm/HIT

Based on a play by Kathy Acker, this thirty-minute film is an experiment in translation, not only between mediums and formats but between decades and bodies. *Implosion* (2011) can be seen as a continuation or exacerbation of a literary gesture initiated by Acker, who set a drama about the French Revolution in early 1980s New York City, transposing this historical content into the language and bodies of downtown punks, drug addicts and sex workers. Fahrenholz's adaptation involves a cast of contemporary non-actors, young men who in real life spend their time in gyms, clubs and on iPhones, some of whom work as graphic designers or internet porn actors but are mostly between occupations and in flux.

By making Acker's punk voice return through the channel of these young bodies and in these mouths, *Implosion* occupies and activates the gap between two New Yorks (1983/2011), in-between a hard, transgressive, recently bankrupt city still swarming with homeless people and the smooth, networked, abstract New York of today.

Shot in a high-rise condominium located near Ground Zero, the film's actors are seen against vistas of postmodern glass curtain wall architecture and open blue sky, planning chaos and terror on laptops. These are the slim, dispersed and connected, abstract bodies of cybercapitalism, and we still don't know what they are capable of, what they want. *Implosion* produces an HD image of the horror and anxiety of the now, allowing us to see ourselves freshly from the punk perspective of a vanished SM bohemia, and seeming to urge a betrayal of the present.