

## Object Of Projection

In 2016, Kim Gordon visited Brisbane for a solo performance and as a keynote speaker at Big Sound. It was during this visit that the pre-echo of Object Of Projection can be found. During her visit, Gordon's solo concert included a reading of the score for Proposal For A Dance, as well as a solo noise improvisation, and it was during her keynote Q+A session, that she described a position she sometimes found herself in; to be as existing as an object of projection.

This phrase stuck with me. It seemed to suggest an inherent tension between self and projection of self, between ideas of public and private and also recognised the complexities existing between the relation of performance, audience, objects and architecture. The phrase also seemed to capture a very particular form in Kim Gordon's art practice and it's this premise that sits at the very heart of this survey exhibition.

These themes, of architecture and the stage, the body, gesture and, as Kim puts it so succinctly, dismantling the hierarchical sanctity of the object, have guided her for four decades now. They have provided a conceptual mesh through which her ideas and approaches to making work have been contoured.

After finishing studies at Otis College, Kim Gordon left Los Angeles in 1979 and headed east. Driving across the country with her friend, the artist Mike Kelley, she arrived in New York and established Design Office with Vicki Alexander. While Alexander would leave before the completion of their first action, Design Office has continued to be a home for Gordon's conceptually based works and is emblematic of her practice.

"My dad was a sociologist," She explains of her early interaction with the New York art community, "and when I met Dan Graham in New York I saw how sociology could also be a basis for working, just to find content within sociological things. You know, people, and behaviour, where and how they live, and stuff like that, it started to make sense for me."

As well as drawing on these themes, Gordon's work weaves in materials as a means of provoking those who encounter them to reconsider themselves, and the spaces they and the work are situated in. She calls on familiar objects and familiar artistic tools, but seeks to reposition them through their relation to one another. It's this condition which is captured in pieces like Skirt/Paint and her series Cut Outs, which collects a series of iPhone sized canvases that are instantly familiar, but experienced without expected function.

"I've used paint on a lot different materials," She notes. "I've made works on coloured mylar and made these box paintings that were kind of sculptural. I've also made some glitter box paintings, I guess I kind of thought you could paint on anything. I don't know, I feel like I'm really better with 3D."

Glitter, as something recognisable but also essentially formless, recurs in Gordon's installations. As part of Object Of Projection her piece Glitter Circle is being presented.

"Glitter Circle" Kim describes, "was kind of meant to represent a body without having a body. I like that idea that you can have traces of the body, but actually you don't see a body. So, with Glitter Circle, it is the size of my arms stretched out. It comes from experiences on stage and I wanted to retrace those somehow, but not have the work directly represent that."

It's this ambiguity of relation that hovers inside a great many of her works. It recognises the simple complexities held simultaneously in the making the works, as well as a dichotomy between a sense of performative intuition and her longitudinal interests in matters of architecture, embodiment and situationism.

"Well," she summarises, "yeah, in my work some things are pre-considered, but sometimes I'll just start something and not be sure what to do with it. And then I'll get an idea of what to do with it, which is, I think, the way a lot of people work. It's open in that way. Sometimes this is what I want to do, so I'm just going to follow it. Like the Wreath Paintings. That was an idea and I just carried it out."