

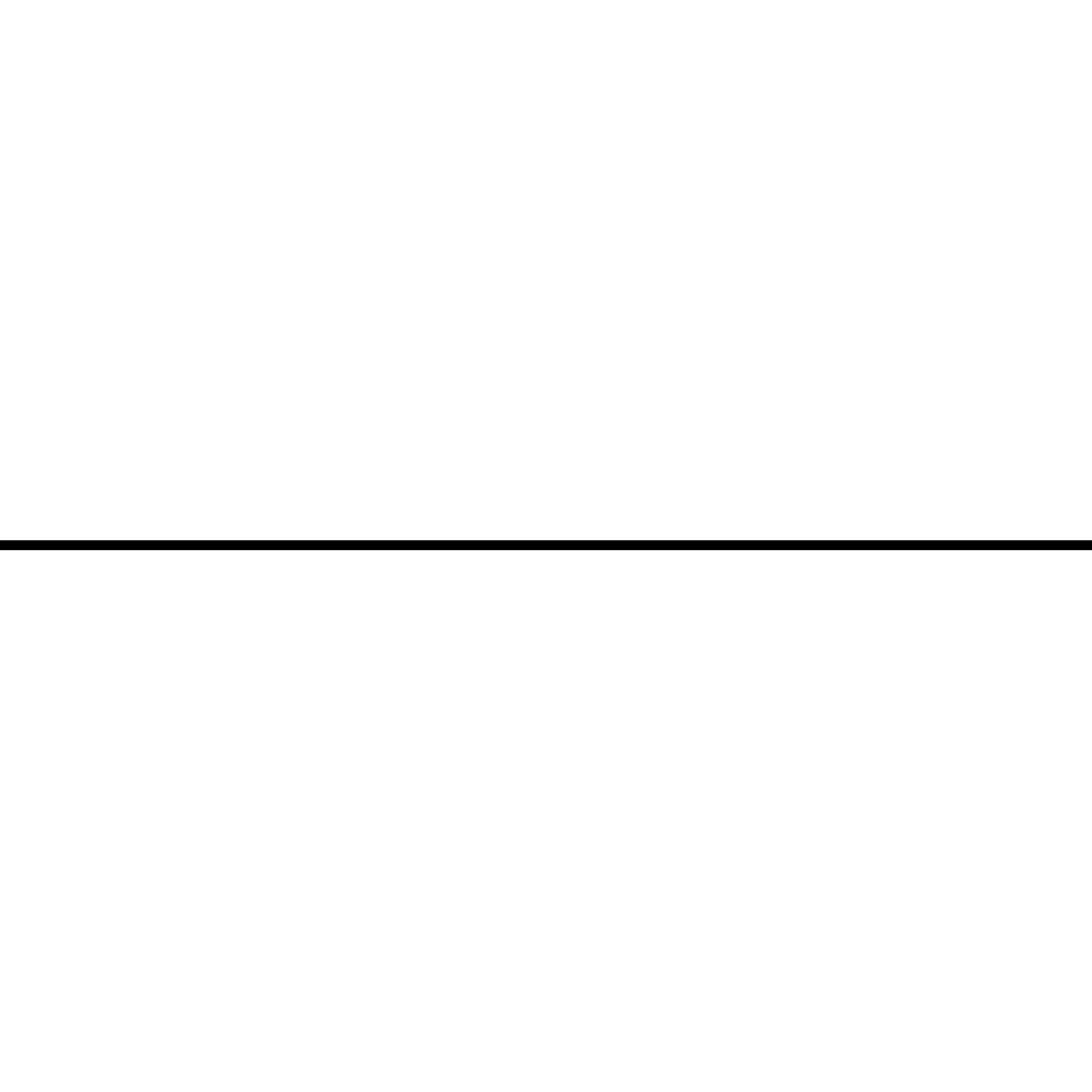
Capsize

Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke



University of Nevada, Reno





Capsize

Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke

This publication accompanies:

Capsize
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
8 March – 15 April 2012

Hilliard Endowment Residency
Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery
University of Nevada, Reno
10 April – 15 April 2012

Essays by Jennifer Doyle and Grant Wahlquist

Introductions by Robert Crouch and curator Marjorie Vecchio PhD

The longstanding relationship between performance art and video is a complex one. Both art forms gained popularity among artists in the 1970's, many of which used the immediacy of video and performance to further a conceptual based approach/practice. Interdisciplinary by nature, the term performance art is generally understood as an action or situation that incorporates time, the presence of the artist or performer, and the relationship of the performer to an audience.

By privileging a literal definition of presence, artists such as Christopher d'Arcangelo, Carolee Schneeman, and the early work of Laurie Anderson began to explore the possibilities of the unmediated action. The presence of both artist and audience came to be considered a necessary component of the work, and video documentation was deemed an inadequate representation of the power of live performance. Performance studies scholar Peggy Phelan's famous assertion, "Performance's potency comes from its temporariness, its 'one time only' life" further reflects this notion: the authentic experience vis-à-vis the ephemeral

In 2011, LACE Curator in Residence Dino Dinco developed a performance program charting the boundary between artist and audience in his series *3 x 6 x 3*, which featured a circuit of three performers executing continuous live work with an intimate audience of six. Beck and Locke's proposal contrasted this approach by offering up a series of actions to be performed by models, specifically for the purposes of documentation, without an audience in attendance.

LACE programs reflect an abiding interest in the creative "process" as much as the "product," and the artists' investment in developing an exhibition that explores the friction produced between action and reproduction is precisely the type of methodology that LACE has advocated for over 30 years. Since 1978 LACE has been committed to presenting works of art in all media—including the then-experimental media of performance art and video. The once unknown and untested artists who found support and encouragement at LACE are now among our most influential and admired artists, including John Baldessari, Chris

INTRODUCTION // ROBERT CROUCH

and undocumented/undocumentable performance.

At the same time, artists such as Joan Jonas and Chris Burden incorporated film, video, and photography not only as a means of documentation but also as integrated media. Jonas famously exploited the representational and fetishistic properties of video by developing a specific performance persona—her "electronic erotic seductress"—and creating a series of situations specifically for the video camera. Burden's *Velvet Water* (1974) consisted of the artist's attempt to breathe water as the audience in the adjacent room viewed the action with a closed circuit feed running through a bank of video monitors.

In 2011 curator Marjorie Vecchio approached LACE to host a new collaborative project by artists Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke. While both artists are keenly invested in exploring issues of the body, athleticism, and representation, it was their commitment to developing a correlation between performance and media that I found most compelling and relevant to LACE's current program.

Burden, Karen Finley, Dan Graham, Mike Kelley, and Barbara Kruger, to name just a few. *Capsize* fits squarely within this legacy.

I would like to thank LACE's Executive Director Carol Stakenas for her tireless efforts to support and champion LACE's commitment to experimentation in Los Angeles. I would also like to thank Geneva Skeen, Program Coordinator, for her guidance and expertise in working with the artists during their residency, and Kim Zumpfe, Lead Preparator, for her invaluable skill and dedication. The exhibition and residency could not have been possible without the generosity of our friends at the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the Visual Artists Network. I am grateful to Marji Vecchio for her humor and curatorial insight, and finally, I would like to thank Tad and Jennifer for gracing us with their professionalism, charm, and artistic vision during their time here.

ROBERT CROUCH, Associate Director/Curator, LACE

In January 2009, Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke met while participating in a group show at Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery. *I Like Winners: Sport and Selfhood* was a survey exhibition of twenty-five artists exploring how sports can reveal the socially cultured self comingled with personal identity. Upon this encounter between the artists, a collaborative relationship ensued, which also led to one between Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) and the University of Nevada, Reno.

Collaboration is tenuous: issues emerge out of difference and ego in such a way that most artists do not even consider collaborating. Given that Beck and Locke have rich athletic backgrounds, it's no surprise they knew that hard work pays off—they were willing to 'go there'. As the curator, there was one specific instance when I knew their collaboration would be successful: it was the moment they saw the vertical support beam in LACE's back project room. The artists were instantaneously intrigued: Locke noticed the possibilities for a boat mast while Beck speculated about a performance up in the air. A puzzle came into view and from there

also silence, not literally as both videos emit expected sounds of splashing and ropes moving, but another kind of silence, that of bodies pushing to a limit—bodies that are synchronously passive and responding to their biology not for survival but for *resilience*, *adaptation* and *play*. There is nothing that the socialized brain can do at that point but rely on our more foreign intelligence, that of the body alone with itself.

The artwork of *Capsize* deserves continued research from the context of falling and sinking; literary references to the sea, boats and the place of journey and migration in human history; Biblical overtones of Eden and the Fall; the honesty of children's games; and readings alongside Yvonne Rainer, Chantal Akerman, and other artists who examine repetition, silence, performance, and mediation. However, we are very fortunate for Jennifer Doyle and Grant Wahlquist to begin and lead the conversation with their thoughtful essays written for this catalogue. From the two photographic series and two video projections, to the live performance with its projected residual video, Beck and Locke have

HEAD FIRST // MARJORIE VECCHIO PHD

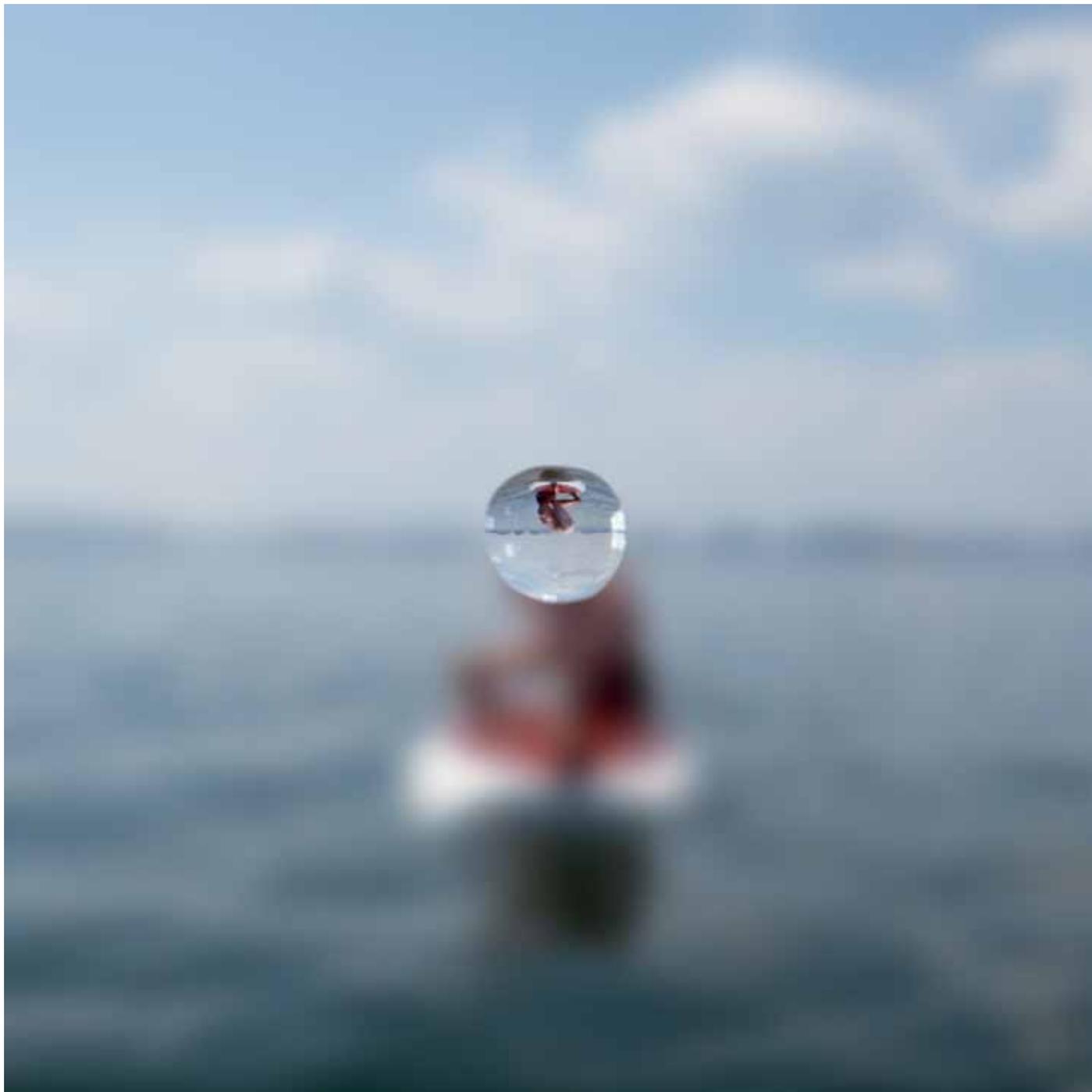
the work curated itself. In a successful collaboration, precision plays an excellent role in making and editing pieces.

The title word *capsize* has origins that mean "to sink by the head," which illuminates a theme of the socialized and mediated form as related to the biological body, indulging in the age-old problem of the mind/body split. To go head first into anything is to leave the body behind, yet at the same time, you can consider it as moving the head out of the way. 'Capsizing' also refers to failure; if your boat capsizes, it was unsuccessful in keeping afloat—its purpose has failed and in turn it has failed to protect. The state of capsizing is a vessel being overcome and filled with water. Sinking is what follows. However, Beck and Locke never go into truly deep water, nothing sinks, nobody drowns. We never get as far as failure and that is where the work begins.

In the exhibition, the viewer doesn't know where to look: there are bizarre perspectives, uncomfortable heights, very few horizon lines, precarious nakedness, and blurry nouns, and then there is

captured the emotional milliseconds of complicit bodies being manipulated, watched and rendered in discomfort—weathering the allegorical storm of our humanity as the body elegantly adjusts as best it can to pervasive yet recasting environments. Shouldn't we all be so lucky.

MARJORIE VECCHIO, PHD, is the Director/Curator of Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno. Marji moved to Reno from New York City in 2006 with 12 years of experience as a photographic installation artist, teacher, and president of Artemisia Gallery, Chicago. In 2009 she was the inaugural Semester Scholar-in-Residence at Columbus State University, Georgia for her forthcoming book, *The Films of Claire Denis: Intimacy on the Border* (IB Tauris, London, Fall 2012). Since 1999, she has curated over 35 exhibitions, worked with 250 artists, published 15 scholars, philosophers, writers and poets in 22 catalogs, and has written over 25 catalogue essays. She has degrees from Mount Holyoke College (BA), The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (BFA), Bard College (MFA), and European Graduate School (PhD, Magna Cum Laude).



Jennifer Locke and Tad Beck explore the capacities of the athletic turn. By this I mean not just the turn to the image of the athlete but also the turn to athletics as a formal territory.

Locke's work explores the dynamics of athletic confrontation: she and her subjects grapple, exert and struggle. For *Red/White (Fake Blood)* she and her opponent dress in white and wrestle on a puddle of thick red fluid. It spreads across their bodies and the room. The performance can be witnessed by spectators, but only if they peer through a crack. Spectators to the performance also hear the wrestlers' heavy breathing (both are mic'd), but access to the live spectacle is restricted. The event is recorded from above. That footage is later displayed flat on the floor, as a looping video installation. Each project seems to tease out the difference between being "in" the action and a witness to it. They seem to draw out the distance between bodies, even as they are wrapped around each other.

Beck explores the techniques of moving in, with and in relation



TAD BECK, *Atlantic/Pacific*, 2009

In 1971, Helmuth Costard trained seven cameras on George Best for the duration of a soccer match. Best was one of the century's first true sport celebrities. (The Manchester United soccer player was ridiculously handsome when he was young.) The cameras follow Best and only him for ninety minutes. *Fussball Wie Noch Nie* (football as never before) is not a film of a game, however. I am not even sure it makes sense to call that film a portrait of a player—can you really excise Best from his teammates in a game in which the athletes' performances are so completely interde-

FISH OUT OF WATER // JENNIFER DOYLE

to bodies of water. Again and again, he returns to the wet: His subjects row, sail, and play across the top of floating logs. They become parts of boats (*Figureheads*) or split the Atlantic and the Pacific with their bodies (*Atlantic/Pacific*). Invoked across this work is the romance of the watering hole—the summer lake, the local quarry, the city pier. *Cliff Jump* shows men taking the positions they occupy in photographs snapped as they jumped into the Atlantic from one of Maine's coastal bluffs. The images captured by *Cliff Jump* are of gestures twice removed—citing a space of freedom within a zone of constraint.

The athletic gesture is a tool for exploring the capacity of the body to exceed our sense of its limits—but for Locke and Beck it is also a mechanism for exploring the definition, the disciplining of bodies and space. An action takes place; a body moves; a recording is made; movements are mapped.

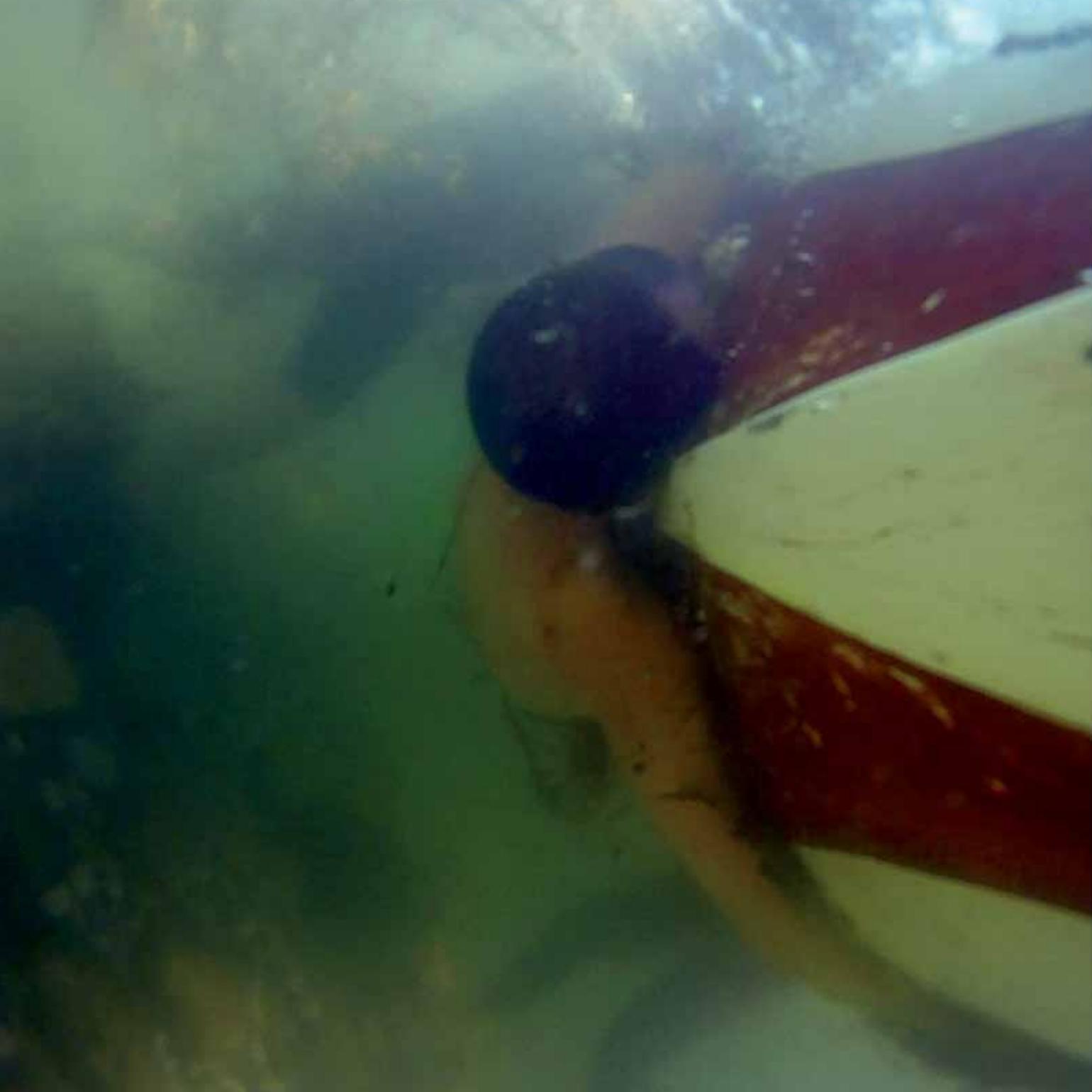
BECK AND LOCKE, *Capsize 1*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Keel Haul*, 2011, Video Installation (following spread)

pendent? It's said Costard had no interest whatsoever in sports of any kind: he liked the idea of a film about watching a man in spite of the sport he plays. Costard records a perverse relationship to the sport: *Fussball Wie Noch Nie* tracks the decision to

JENNIFER LOCKE, *White/Red (Fake Blood)*, 2010, Video Installation









ignore the structure of the game. It is a refusal that allows us to see how sport organizes our vision. Its subject is not sport, but a way of looking at it, a way of engaging it.

Sport simmers just beneath art's skin. The two are not as far apart as we tend to think. Take Yvonne Rainer's *We Shall Run* (1963)—in which people (some trained dancers, some not) trace patterns as they jog around the stage. Or her more recent work *Spiraling Down* (2009) and *Assistant Living: Good Sports 2* (2011), which cite soccer moves and photographs from the *New York Times* (for example) as source-texts.

In 1964, the Danish artist Asger Jorn drafted rules for a three-sided soccer match. It was a sporting articulation of his “Triolectic Method” for Situationists. The French collective *Pied La Biche* has staged triolectic tournaments as works of art. But what does the Spanish club Atletico Bilbao do, when, as a training exercise, they play a match according to Jorn's rules? They explore of the situation of sport. *Pied La Biche* also re-staged the penalty phase of a 1982 World Cup match between France and Germany (*Refait*). Using the television broadcast of this tense fifteen-minute episode as their guide, the collective performed the movements of all the bodies that appeared on the screen. Players, goalies, referees, coaching staff, officials meandering into and out of the frame. Rather than set these movements on a field, they performed them in the most ordinary public spaces imaginable—parking lots, fields, streets. As if the whole of that city were preoccupied with this moment, tracing out in the world what they replay in their heads.

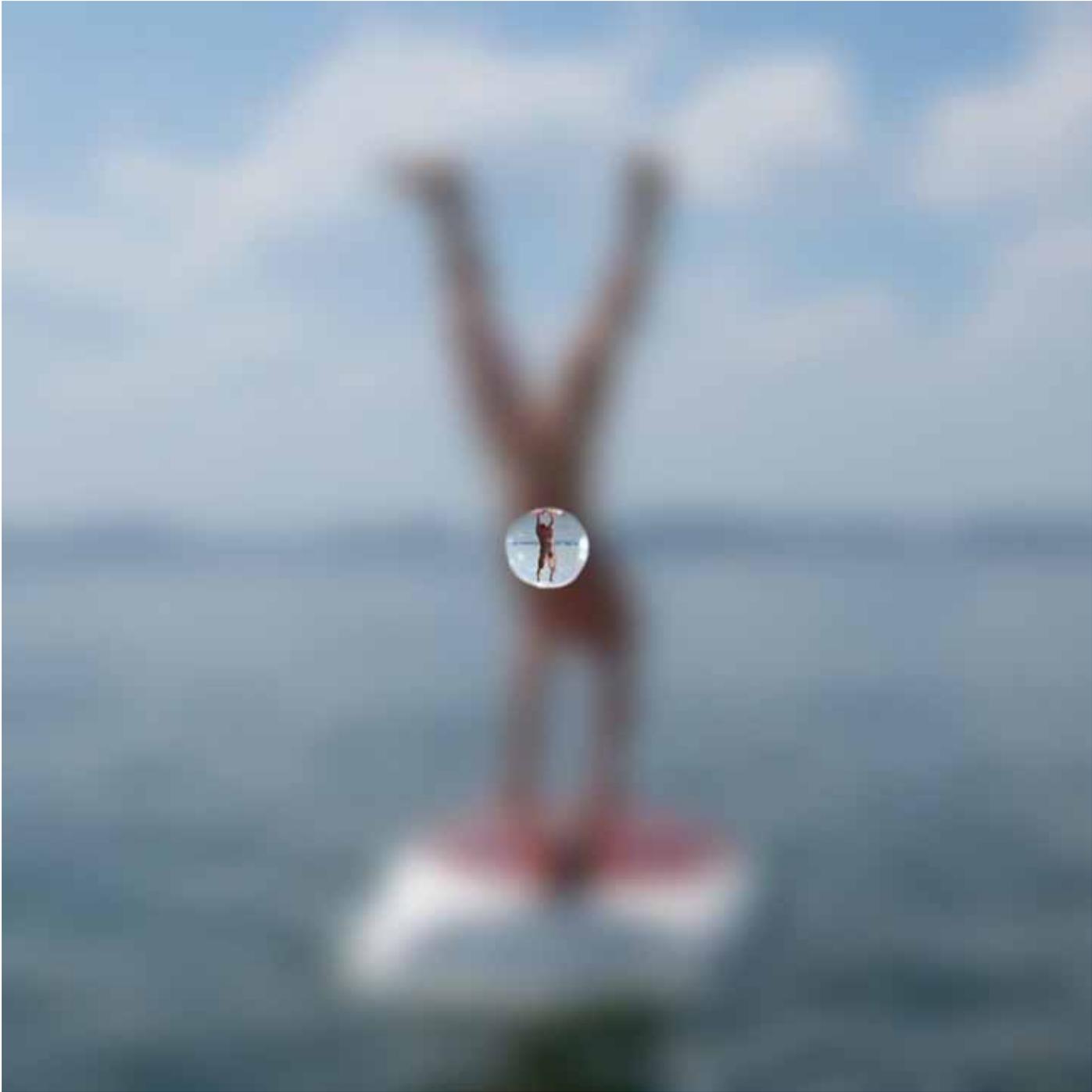
Closer to Beck and Locke's work, however, is John White's deployment of Pomona College football players in his 1970 performance piece, *Preparation F*. Guys changed from street clothes into their pads and helmets right in front of the audience, and then engaged in a hybrid event that looked like both a drill and a dance. In 1970, the performance was risqué.

JENNIFER LOCKE, *Match*, 2005, Video Installation

TAD BECK, *Cliff Jump 7a*, 2010, 26.5x40 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Capsize 5*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Mast Jump*, 2011, Video Installation (following spread)









Football players doing something so “arty” leaned awfully close to doing something “gay.” In 2012, White asked another generation to participate in his action and everyone seemed more game. Masculinity and art have changed. And so has sport.

White's piece begins with the transition into sport, it nuzzles the edges of intensely regimented, technical game. Locke and Beck work with men, and in their solo practices they mine different aspects of masculinity. Beck's work expands on a recognizable visual tradition in which artists turn to scenes of boyish pleasure. Those scenarios flip: they are sites of desire and regulation. Much of his work meditates on the intimacy of homosociality and homoeroticism, and the power dynamics that unfold between men be they rowers, or lovers, or both.

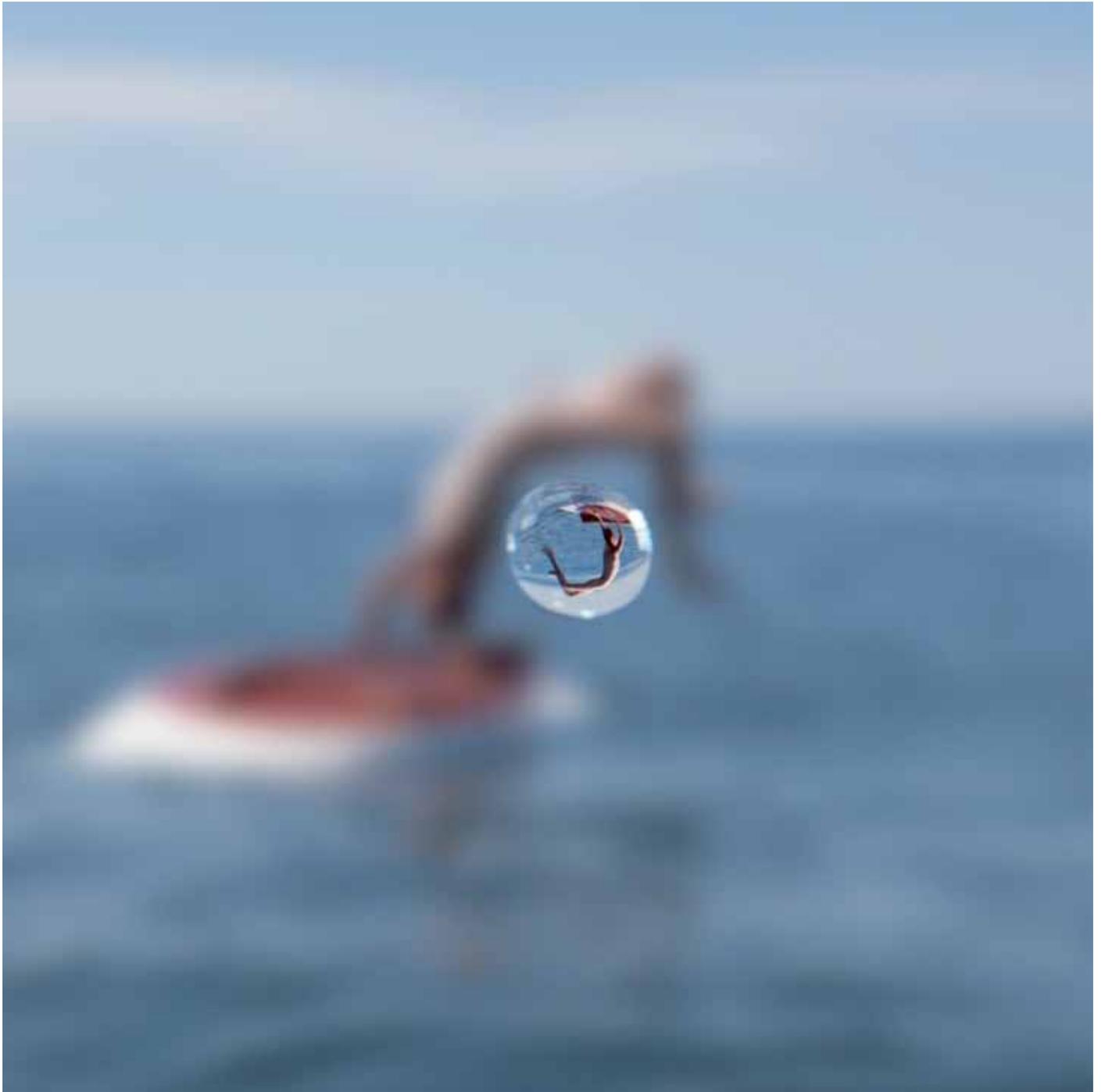
Geometries of sex shift in Locke's work, as they must. In *Match*, she wrestles a man. This performance video explores dynamics of gender and power in terms that are surprisingly less stark than one might think. It's pleasurable to watch her wrestle a man. (High school girls wrestle boys in competition across the U.S.) She sets herself up for failure, not by taking on a male opponent, but by wrestling someone who is heavier and more experienced. Watching her take on this challenge suggests an escape from the structures that would have us think there was something unnatural in “fighting above your weight”—be that literally or figuratively. “Fuck,” we hear her mutter as she gives up some ground before scrambling out of his hold. It's a struggle, quite literally. But the scale of fight is modest. It is a struggle that unfolds within a structure that converts aggression into a form of play. It is a practice that is only gently haunted by the asymmetries of power that subjugate women in other contexts.

A man hugs the bottom of a boat as it turns over and over again in Locke and Beck's collaboration *Keel Haul*. The projection is a diptych, capturing opposite points in the circle of the roll: the underwater view and the above water view; the top of the boat and its bottom. He is in the wrong place. The sound is intensely

JENNIFER LOCKE, *White Object*, 2011, 24x30 in

TAD BECK, *Untitled (Sovereign of the Seas III)*, 2010, 15x15in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Capsize 3*, 2011, 36x36 in



liquid - the slap, gurgle and drip of the boat's rotation. I can't watch this for long without feeling a sense of panic. It's play, but it's also torture—the work's title refers in fact to a notorious maritime punishment by which a sailor would be dragged across the bottom of the ship (and killed). It features in *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1965).

At first glance, one struggles with a fearful reflex as the man dips under water. But sit with this immersive work and its rhythm becomes soothing. The horrific scene it references is scaled down and re-imagined. The boat is not an instrument of torture: it turns with him.

Mast Jump is similarly soft and hard: one man (Beck) hauls another up a sailboat's mast. We watch this from the top and from the bottom. Our jumper climbs out onto the spreader, steadies himself, and leaps into the void. The complimentary views of this action are disorienting in their verticality—we are both above and below the action. We see him ascend and descend. That movement is mapped not as a vertical climb up or down the frame but as a climb toward and away from the camera. Locke's voice can be heard in the soundtrack, but she is outside the frame.

Interestingly, when they collaborate their men seem to matter less as men—masculinity is somehow stripped down, or perhaps it is displaced onto the apparatus, the structure that frames these bodies: boats, rigging, cameras, geometries of vision.

Men suspended, upside down, tumbling. *Jackstands* and *Capsize* pluck the inverted, falling body from the air. These frozen images distance us from these bodies. They are exposed, but also depersonalized and nearly abstract studies of physical actions. These serial images recall the motion study photography of Edward Muybridge or Thomas Eakins. Those photographs produce the increment as a unit of measure, a means for inserting the moving body into a regulatory system. (They mark the birth of statistical discourse on the athlete.) But they also recall Yves Klein's *Saut dans le vide* (Leap into the void, 1960)—a fictional leap toward the pavement that works as both an image of flying and falling. Everything in that image is up in the air, including its truth value.

Jackstands cites a series of stills that capture these men in a fall into water. Beck and Locke selected the image that seemed to record the moment in which their bodies adjust, regain control and begin to move for the surface. Their models attempted to re-create that event in the studio, propped up on jack stands as if they are in drydock. *Capsize* layers one inversion over another. An overturned boat, a man on his hands. The image inverted within a drop of water.

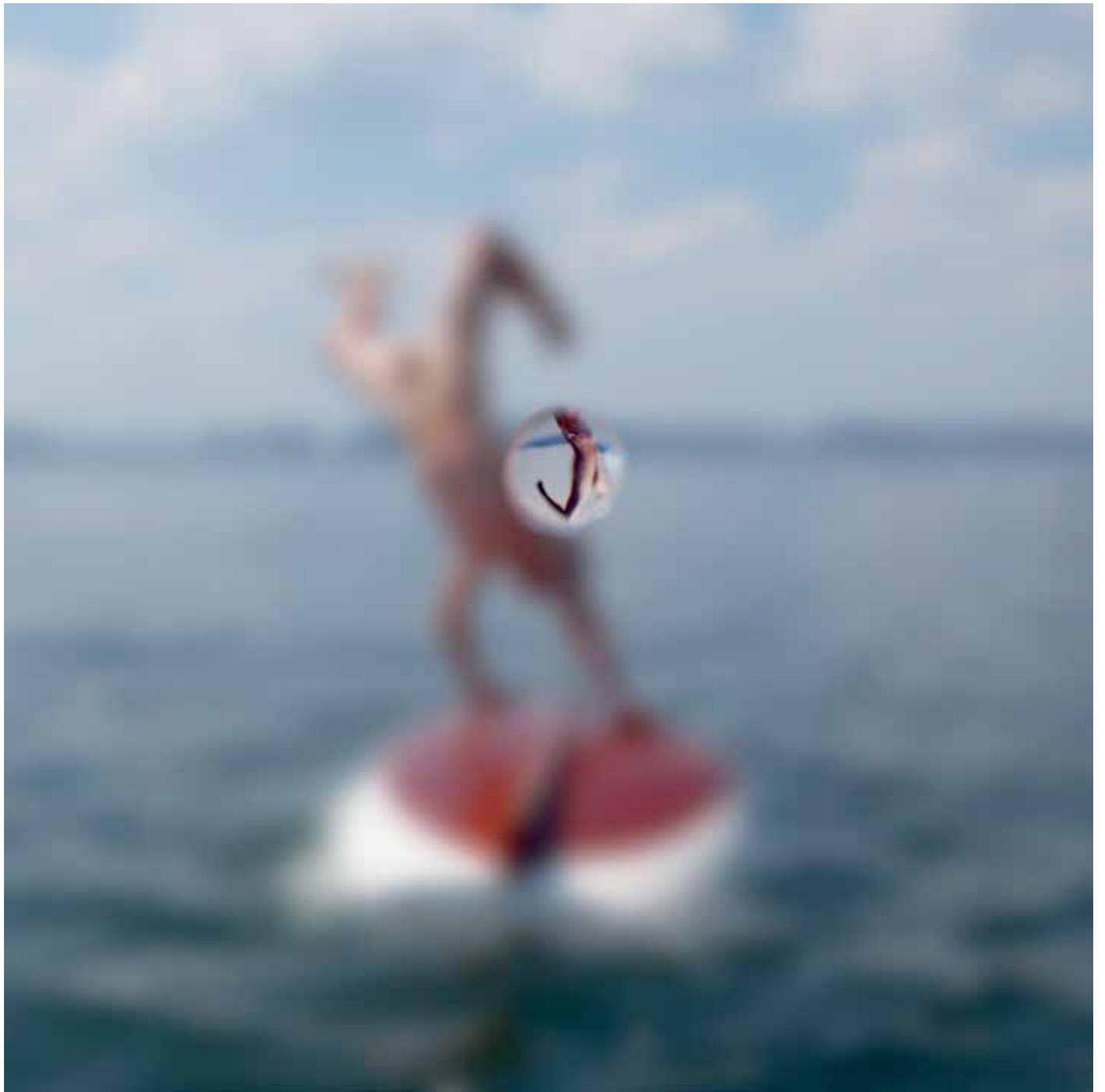
Locke and Beck are tracking freedom of movement that happens somewhere outside the frame—somewhere in the body. A feeling. As Rainer reminds us (with the title of her 1968 work) “the mind is a muscle.” Rather than give in to the illusion that this feeling is something that can be recorded, they blur our vision. They reposition the falling body in a studio setting, where the work's citationality can't be missed.

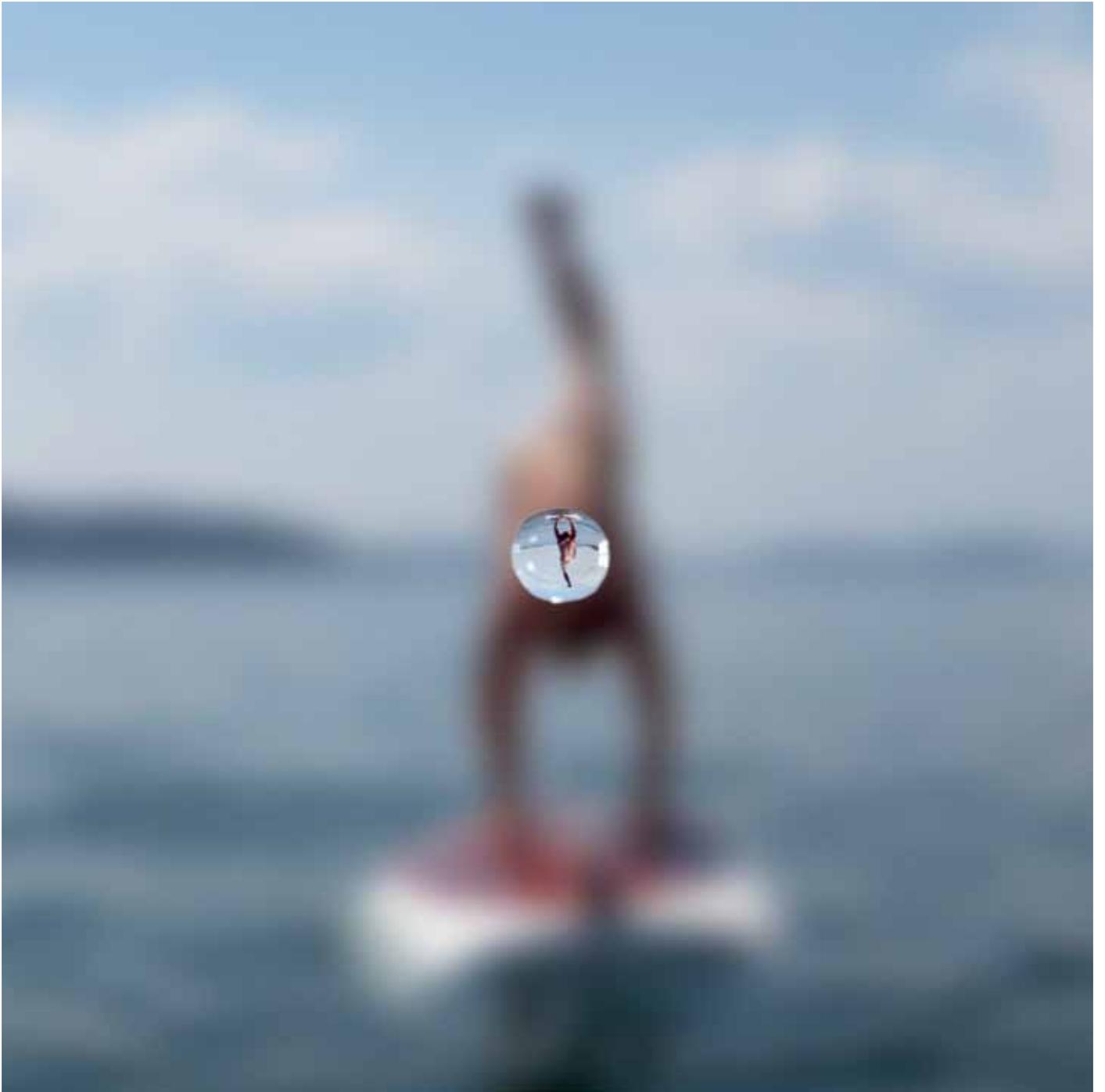
Instead of motion we get a body. We get a photograph that feels *almost* like a still life. These are portraits of the flip side of physical culture's thrills: flesh that recalls us back to our own bodies and its mortality.

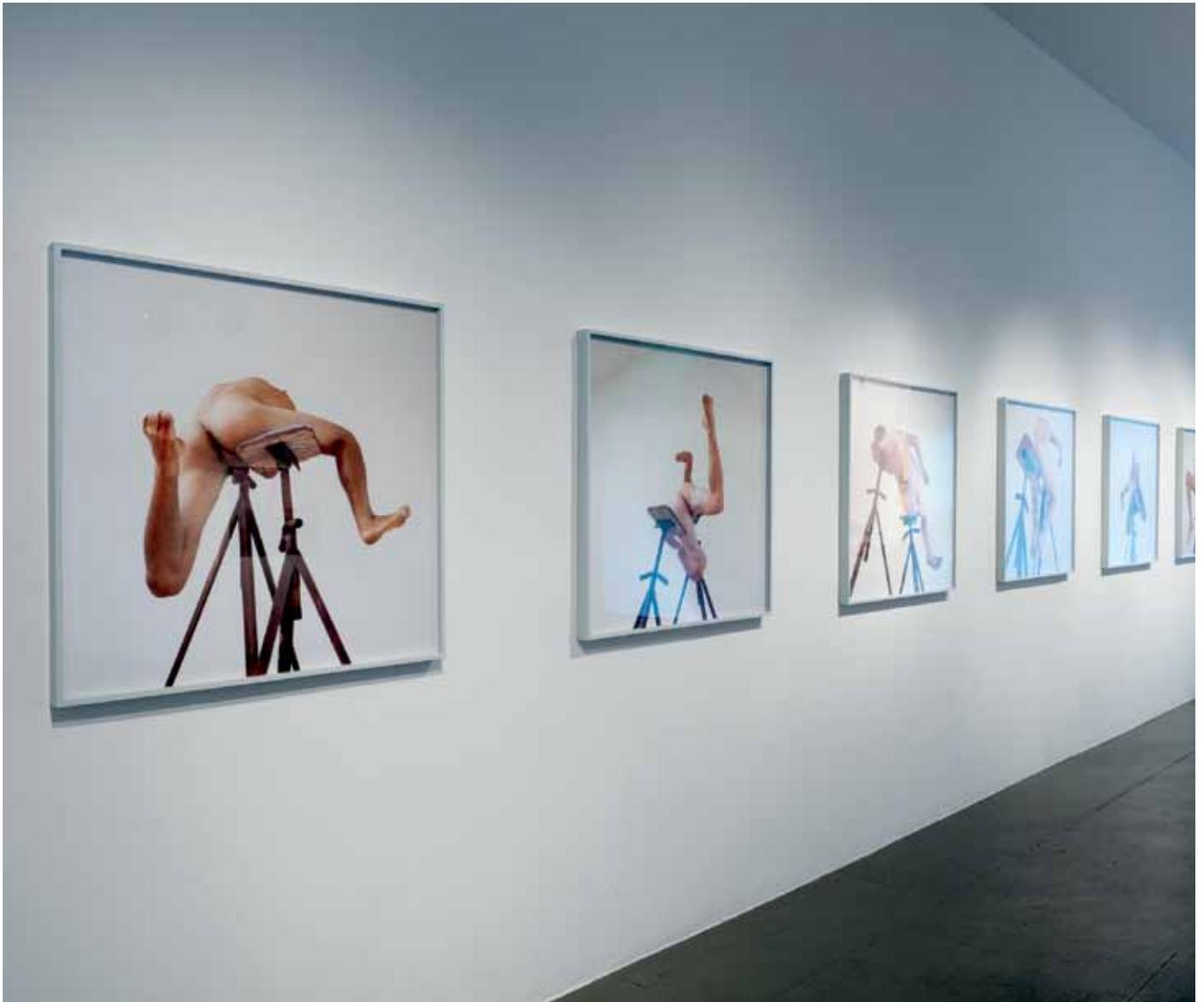
JENNIFER DOYLE, PhD teaches at the University of California, Riverside. She lives and plays in Los Angeles. She is the author of *Sex Objects: Art and the Dialectics of Desire* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006), *Hold It Against Me: Difficulty and Emotion in Contemporary Art* (forthcoming from Duke University Press), and is currently writing a book about art and the athletic gesture entitled *The Athletic Turn*. Her work has appeared in *Qui Parle*, *X-TRA: Contemporary Art Quarterly*, *Representations*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and in anthologies such as *The Feminism and Visual Culture Reader* and *The Art of Art History*.

BECK AND LOCKE, *Capsize 2*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Capsize 4*, 2011, 36x36 in (following page)







BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 6*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 4*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 3*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 1*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 5*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstand 2*, 2011, 36x36 in



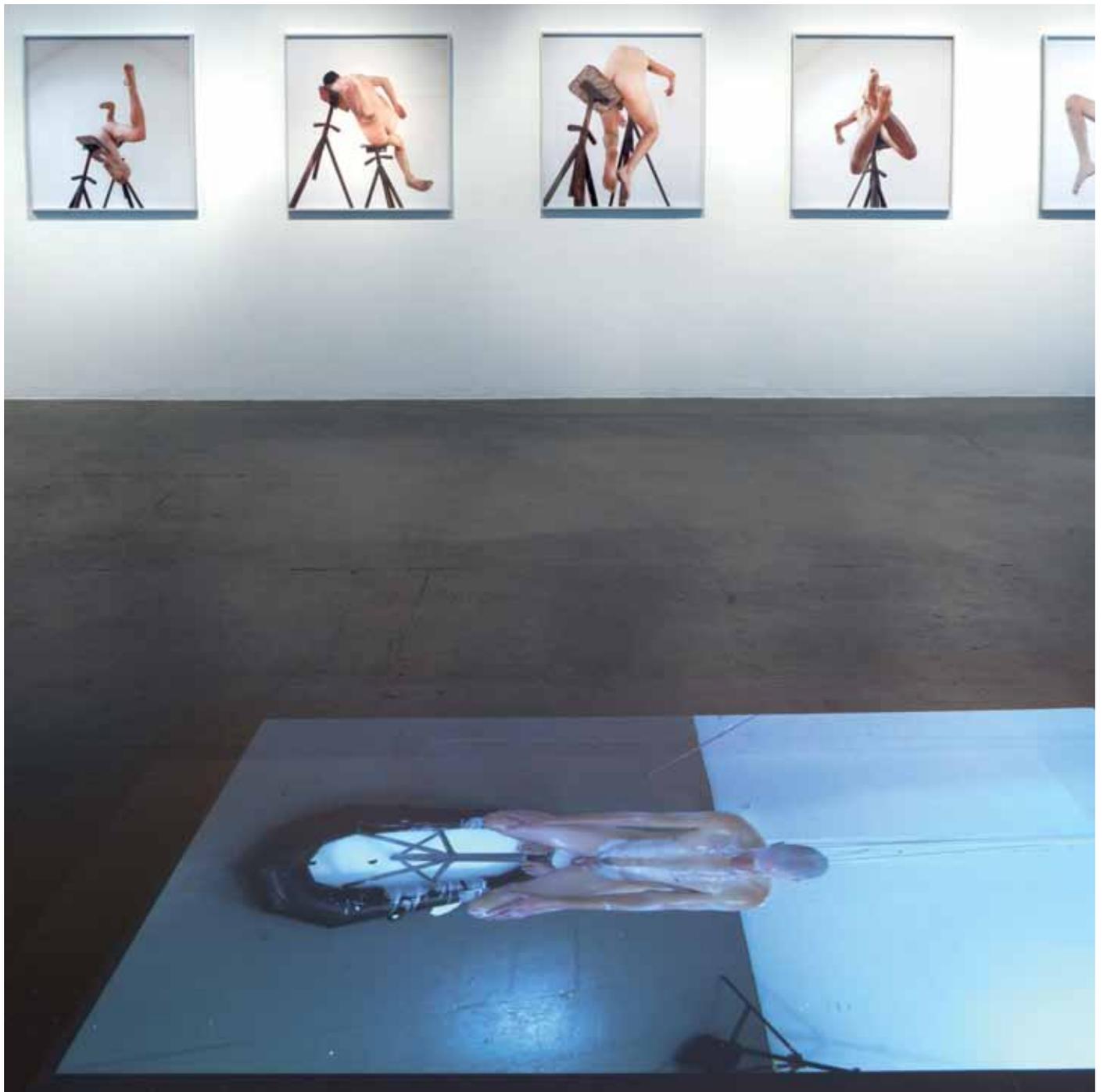












“The swimmer naked in the swimming-bath, seen as he swims through the transparent green-shine, or lies with his face up, and rolls silently to and fro in the heave of the water . . .”

Walt Whitman, from *Leaves of Grass*

Untitled (Buoy), is a performance by Jennifer Locke and Tad Beck for the opening of their collaborative exhibition *Capsize*. At the beginning of the evening a model walks into a vertically oriented space with a pole in the center. A door shuts behind him, and he can be viewed through a mid-sized window framing the scene. He inflates a black life raft, removes his clothing, and sits on a bosun’s chair. He becomes a body. Locke and Beck enter the space. Beck hoists the body up and he and Locke place it seated on a jackstand situated in the center of the raft. Beck raises Locke up on the bosun’s chair, where she covers the body in gallons of Elmer’s glue. Beck and Locke leave the space.

As in the exhibition as a whole, the artists have created a

proximity makes me ill-suited to offer anything approaching an objective or rigorous assessment of it. I am not interested in responding to these arguments, although I believe a response is possible. (After all this time, are we still so taken with the idea of “objectivity”?)

When I look at this body I recognize its experience as my own. I’ve been on one of these stands myself, and the body has features strangely similar to mine. But it is also, as always in Beck and Locke’s work, somehow less and more than a body. The glue solidifies it as sculpture when viewed “directly” but functions as an erasure on the live feed. Neither experience being primary to the work, the experience of looking becomes dislocated, both in the sense of my own experience growing fragmented and in the sense of my inability to ever grasp the entirety of the action from one position. I look from here and from there. I look from here imagining the view from there. My body is two places at once, in pieces. The body on display is both thing and representation in either place.

SING THE BODY AQUATIC // GRANT WAHLQUIST

situation that manifests a series of reversible symbolic exchanges: pillar for mast, body for boat, water for jackstand for exhibition space, static image for live action. The action is not merely “live.” A camera mounted in the space broadcasts a live feed of the proceedings to the center of the exhibition two rooms away. It is incumbent on individual viewers to find their way to the space to witness the act “in the flesh.” Beck and Locke periodically return to the body, rotating it ninety degrees and photographing it as it grows progressively more exhausted.

Beck and Locke are persons with whom I am intimate and who solicited my opinion about this exhibition while in process. My own body is pictorially present in the exhibition, as I modeled for some of the work. One could argue that I am as close to this work as one can be without having made it myself, and that this

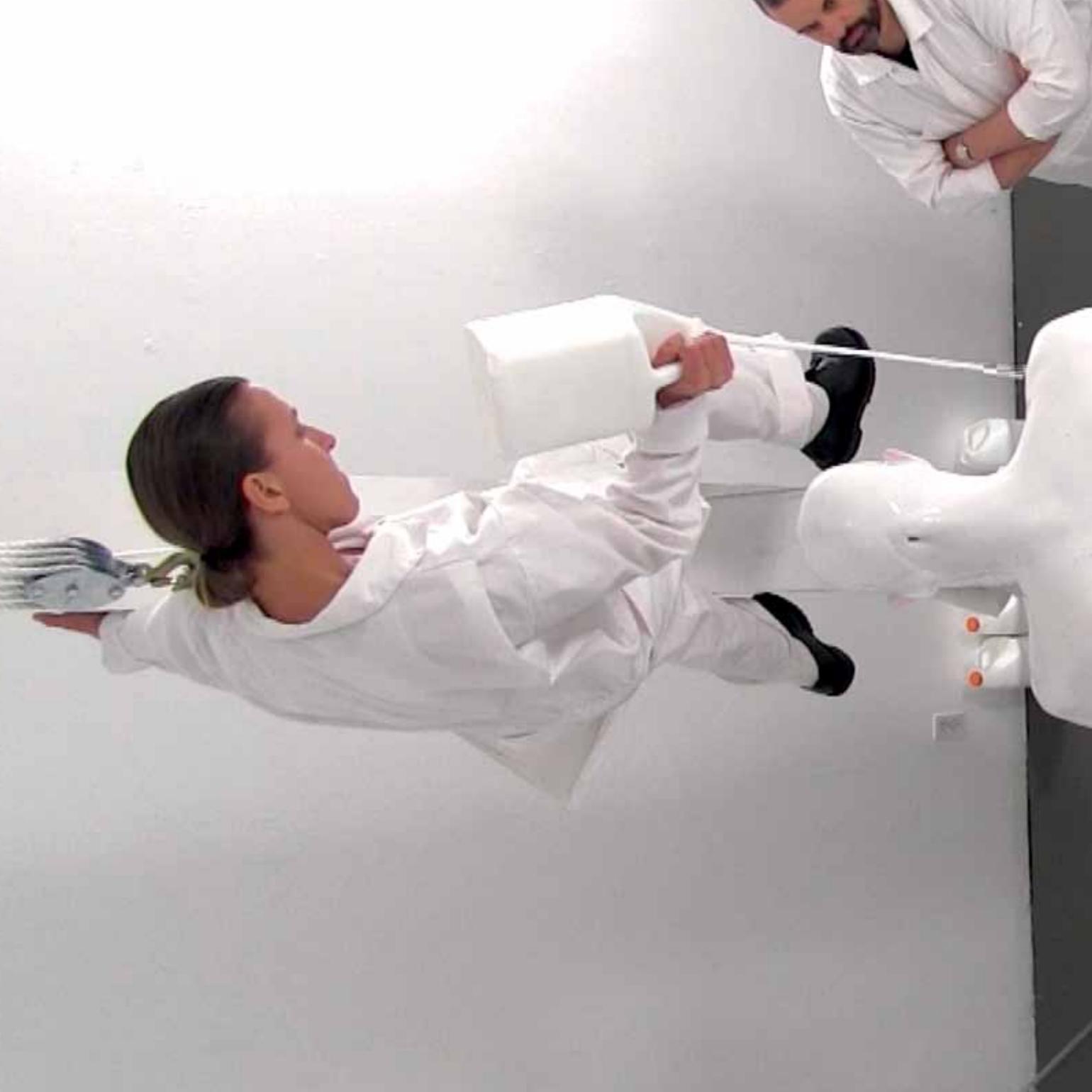
BECK AND LOCKE, *Jackstands*, 2011, 36x36 in

BECK AND LOCKE, *Untitled (Buoy)*, 2012, Video Installation

BECK AND LOCKE, *Untitled (Buoy)*, 2012, Video Installation (following)

Time passes. The body rotates and becomes images—stills, videos, text messages, blog posts. The glue dries and grows translucent, an erased erasure. I feel the strain of the body, its exhausting attempt to be sculpture. The violence of it, as in Beck and Locke’s other works, then becomes something else. The artists return to the room and Beck raises Locke in the bosun’s chair. She gradually, tenderly begins to remove the glue in one sheet. The glue removed, Locke and the body are lowered by Beck. Beck and Locke tidy the space, the model dresses, and the three exit, concluding the performance.

In 1930, René Magritte painted a brunette female nude cut across five discrete canvases framed and installed vertically. He repeated the work with a blonde female nude and an identical title in 1948: *L’evidence éternelle*, or, *The Eternally Obvious*. While the bodily fragments in both works do not add up to a portrayal of the entirety of either woman’s figure (the hands are notably missing), the viewer imagines the body whole and intact. Roger Rothman, noting that Magritte often “embraced” the first version





of the work “as if she were in fact a real woman” has described Magritte’s strategy as a “deliberate confounding of things and representations.”

In *Untitled (Buoy)* the body is also segmented via framing. Viewed through a window into the performance space it can only be glimpsed through a particular frame, one that Beck and Locke’s periodic rotation of it reminds us is subject to their control. Viewed through the live feed in the gallery, it can only be observed as a representation from an elevated, distancing angle. Our experience of the work in either location always suggests the other in a way that tempts us with, and refuses, an imaginary awareness of the situation as a whole. The body is not grasped in its entirety, nor is the situation driving the forces that act upon it. This is particularly the case for those who do not concentrate for the duration of the performance. One becomes conscious of how even “immediate” experiences of bodies “in the flesh”—even experiences of our own—are conditioned by situations, architecture, and language. Our bodies are things that we experience only as representations.

Between Magritte’s two paintings of *L’evidence*, Jacques Lacan formulated his understanding of the mirror phase, the process by which a child first identifies with and begins to compose its image of its body. This identification is also a misrecognition (*méconnaissance*), and the beginning of all such misrecognitions by which the ego props itself up and attempts to master the world. In the mirror stage, the child (its body, and by extension its world) begins to cohere as subject, but this new sense of inner coherence and self remains threatened and haunted by the fragmented body. The ego confounds distinctions as well, deliberately or not.

For *Jackstands*, the artists pushed a series of models suddenly off the edge of a boat and documented the haphazard positions assumed by their bodies as they attempted to regain balance and composure. Beck and Locke selected positions from these images to have the same models re-enact in the studio perched atop jack stands, flexible pedestals used for storing boats on land. The resulting works recall a host of historical reference points, from Bellmer to Bacon, even to Bosch, the last of whose

works Lacan described as reminiscent of the fragmented body, that ever-present reminder of the vulnerability of the body and its non-presence to the subject. The grotesque bodies of *Jackstands* appear again in a series of photos from which the exhibition as a whole takes its name, *Capsize*. Our image of them is interrupted by a drop of water resting on a photograph of a man attempting to do handstands on a capsized boat. This drop distorts and twists the body’s limbs in the same way that the performative situation that drives the images upends the usual ordering of the body and its relationship to a particular place. Beck and Locke give us the body in fragments, never quite present to us or itself.

My body on the jack stand is a body in trauma, out of balance and subject to violence. Like the infant in the mirror, I recognize it as something both desirable and fearful. I enjoy looking at it but recognize the way I fail to master it. It belongs to Locke and Beck more than myself. These feelings of desire and aggression mimic a common strategy in Beck and Locke’s work individually and in this collaboration as a whole. Bodies can be objects of both violence and tenderness, sometimes one merging subtly into the other. We desire the bodies in Beck’s *Cliff Jump*, *Stroke*, and *Roll*, but we also recognize the actions they undertake as either forced, absurd, or punishing. Locke’s own body and the bodies of her models (particularly in *Objects*) are things of beauty under restraint. Locke and Beck’s approaches to bodies mimic the overall effect of their works in both these respects; we recognize the erotic pleasure of Beck’s looking while noting its cruelty, and Locke entices us with the promise of vision while placing restrictions on our ability to see.

Although I recognize my own body in some of these images it seems strangely foreign. It is not my own body (which is never really my own, never really present to me), but an abstraction of a moment in the life of a body as created and viewed by the camera. It is specific in the peculiarity of its positioning and shape and symbolic in the themes it comes to represent. This abstracted body is simultaneously more and less than a body; as symbol of all bodies and their way of inhabiting spaces and relating to those who inhabit them, it loses its own corporeality. It induces in viewers other than its own (for I belong to my body, perhaps more so than it belongs to me) a sense of identification,

that it is their body, that it is any-body, and as such everywhere and nowhere, present and absent.

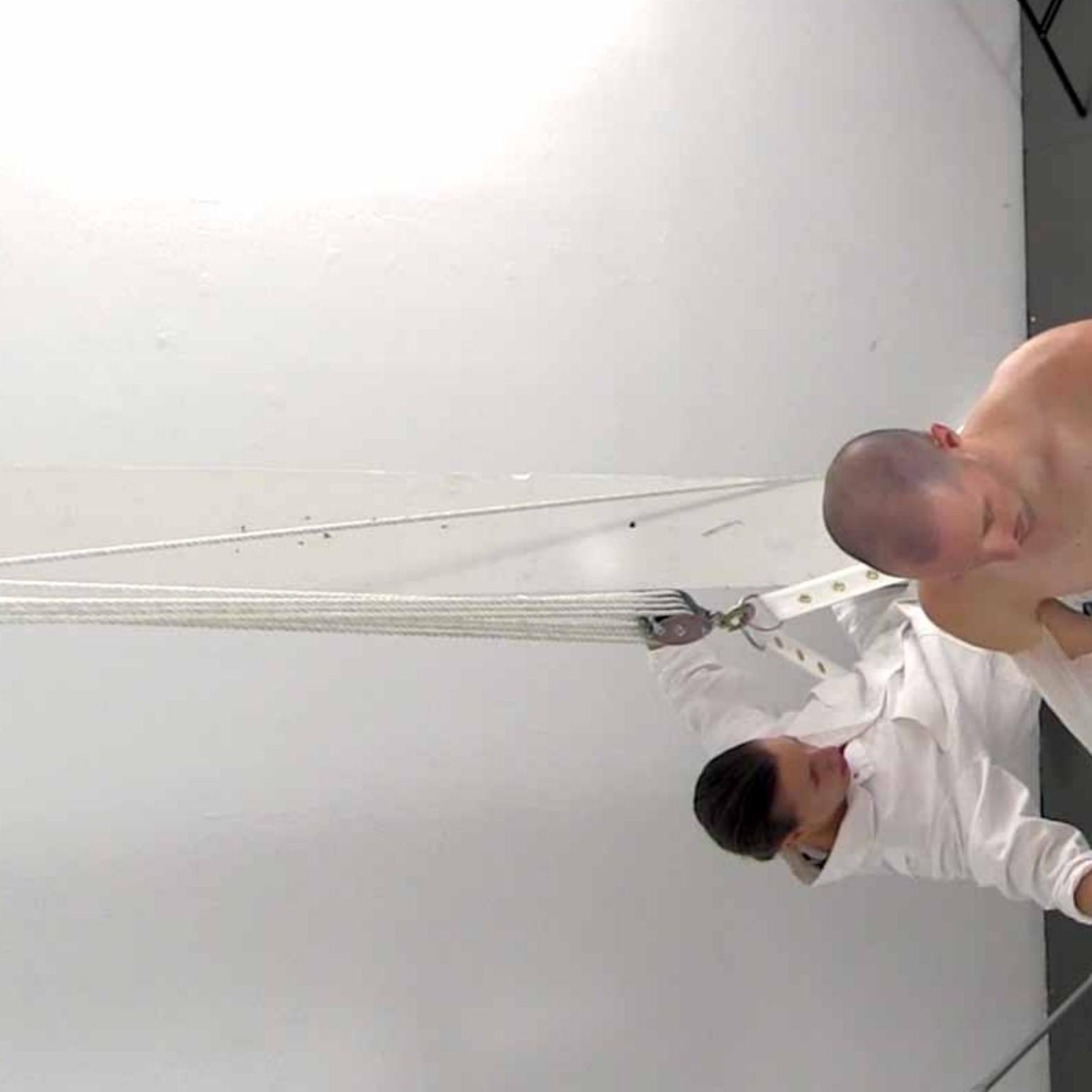
Untitled (Buoy) illustrates the examination of the present/absent/abstracted body that haunts the exhibition as a whole. It alludes to other situations and locations (recreation, the sea) and other objects (sailing vessels), questioning the role of location in our construction of the meaning of the body as object among other objects. Nietzsche once wrote, "The body is a great reason, a plurality with one sense, a war and peace, a herd and a shepherd." It is object and representation, present and absent, particular and abstract, vessel, captain, and sea.

GRANT WAHLQUIST (MA, Theology and Art, Fuller Theological Seminary; MA, Religious Studies, University of Nottingham, UK; JD, University of Southern California) is an independent critic living in New York City and Vinalhaven, Maine. As curatorial assistant at the Orange County Museum of Art, he assisted with *Illumination: Georgia O'Keeffe, Agnes Pelton, Agnes Martin, and Florence Miller Pierce; Peter Saul*; and the *2008 California Biennial*. He has contributed to *Aspect: the Chronicle of New Media Art, Journal of Aesthetics and Protest* (in conjunction with the *2008 California Biennial*), the *Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal*, and the catalogue for the *2010 California Biennial*.

BECK AND LOCKE, *Untitled (Buoy)*, 2012, Audience Point of View, photograph by **JEFF CAIN**

BECK AND LOCKE, *Untitled (Buoy)*, 2012, Video Installation (following)







TAD BECK (b. 1968, Exeter, New Hampshire) received a B.F.A. in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, New York, in 1991, and an M.F.A. in Fine Art from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California, in 2003. After relocating to Los Angeles from New York City to attend graduate school, Beck was full time faculty at the Roski School of Fine Arts, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, for many years. In 2011, Beck returned to New York City, where he now lives and works, in addition to maintaining a summer studio on Vinalhaven, Maine.

Beck was recently the subject of a solo exhibition, *Tad Beck: Palimpsest*, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2010, for which an artist's monograph with texts by Brian T. Allen and Michael Ned Holte was produced, and the artist had another solo exhibition at Samuel Freeman Gallery in 2011. Beck's work has also been exhibited on the west coast at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles; the Sweeney Art Gallery at the University of California, Riverside; Krowwork, Oakland, California; the Sheppard Gallery at the University of

TAD BECK

Nevada, Reno, and Monte Vista Projects, Los Angeles.

Beck has been the subject of solo exhibitions on the east coast at Marisa Del Re Gallery, New York; Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York; Gleason Fine Art, Portland, Maine (catalogue with text by Kelly Wise); the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, Maine; and Spectrum Gallery, Boston. Beck has also exhibited at Apex Art, New York; the Portland Museum of Art, Maine; Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, New York; Debs & Co., New York; Castelli Gallery, New York; and Dru Arstark, New York.

Beck's work has been written about in *The Huffington Post*, *Art Scene*, *LA Weekly*, the *East Bay Express*, *Art Practical*, *Aspect: the Chronicle of New Media Art*, *Art New England*, *The Boston Globe*, *Time Out*, and the *New York Times*. His work is represented in the collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art, the Fisher Landau Center for Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Princeton University Art Museum, and the Portland Museum of Art, Maine, among others.

JENNIFER LOCKE (b. 1969, Smithtown, New York; lives and works in San Francisco) is an artist working in video, photography, and installation-based performance. Locke composes physically intense actions in relation to the camera and specific architecture in order to explore hierarchies between artist, model, camera, and audience. Her actions focus on cycles of physicality and visibility and draw on her experiences as a professional dominatrix, championship submission wrestler, and artists' model.

Locke has exhibited internationally at venues including the 2010 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art (catalogue); the 48th Venice Biennale; Air de Paris, Paris; the 9th Havana Biennial; LA Panaderia, Mexico City; Palais de Beaux-Arts, Brussels; the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; the Berkeley Art Museum; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; New Langton Arts, San Francisco; the Sheppard Gallery at the University of Nevada, Reno (catalogue); the 7th Busan International Video Festival, Busan, Korea (catalogue);

JENNIFER LOCKE

and Canada, New York. Solo exhibitions include Queen's Nails Projects in 2006 and 2010, San Francisco; Hallwalls, Buffalo; Rocksbox, Portland; and Kiki Gallery, San Francisco. Her work has been written about in *Frieze*, *Art Practical*, *SF Weekly*, *Wired*, *Camerawork*, and *artnet.de*.

In the past year, Locke was awarded a 2012 Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship, invited to curate an exhibition for Portland State University (Fall 2012), and had her work accessioned by ArtNow International. Other awards and honors include a 2010 Goldie and the 2006 Chauncey McKeever Award. Locke has curated exhibitions and programs for Artists' Television Access and Queens Nails Annex, co-produced a cable access show that later resulted in a favorable First Amendment decision, sung in punk bands, and led a variety of workshops. She has taught at Saint Mary's College of California. Locke received her BFA (1991) and MFA (2006) from the San Francisco Art Institute, where she currently teaches.

Special thanks to Ben Vilmain, Grant Wahlquist, Oakley Jackson, Keith Drury and Tristan Jackson for their support of and participation in these works.

Dedicated to Devin Charles Hosselkus (1985-2009)

Copyright ©2012 Tad Beck, Robert Crouch, Jennifer Doyle, Jennifer Locke, Marjorie Vecchio, Grant Wahlquist; Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery/University of Nevada, Reno and LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions).

Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke, all rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced without the written permission of the artists or publisher.

ISBN: 978-0-937335-22-2

Printed by CCS Printing, Bellevue, WA,
with the assistance of Sherry Cooper

Support for Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke's LACE residency to create *Capsize* has been generously provided by the Visual Artists Network, a program of the National Performance Network, whose major contributors are the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

Marjorie Vecchio thanks Robert Crouch and Geneva Skeen of LACE, as well as Jennifer Doyle and Grant Wahlquist for all their collaborative excellence in bringing this 'two-states/two institutions' project to fruition in order to support and present the important and timely work of artists Tad Beck and Jennifer Locke. This catalog and most of Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery programming is supported in part by the Hilliard Endowment, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno and the Graduate Student Association, National Endowment for the Arts, Nevada Arts Council, City of Reno Arts and Culture Commission, University of Nevada, Reno's College of Liberal Arts, Department of Art, and Friends of Sheppard Gallery.

SHEPPARD FINE ARTS GALLERY

Marjorie Vecchio, PhD, Director and Curator
Rachel Armstrong, Gallery Manager
Alana Berglund, Preparator
Emily Rogers, Program Manager
Wendy Ricco, Art Department Assistant
Clint Sleeper, Technical Assistant
CJ Walters, Public Relations, School of the Arts
Gallery Team: Ryan Roberts, Andrew Griego, Rachel Alger,
Amy Aramanda, Eunice Choi, Esther Cuan, Michelle Laxalt.

I Like Winners staff: Bailey Sharrocks, Gallery Manager;
Devin Hosselkus, Preparator; Nikki Davis, Assistant preparator

LOS ANGELES CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS (LACE)

Carol Stakenas, Executive Director
Robert Crouch, Associate Director/Curator
Geneva Skeen, Program Coordinator
Kim Zumpfe, Lead Preparator
Interns: Monica Tzeng, Raunak Khosla, Mabel Moore, Gab Chabran, Rachel Wiseman, Clarissa Morales, Nicole Garton



Essays by Jennifer Doyle and Grant Wahlquist
Introductions by Robert Crouch and curator Marjorie Vecchio PhD