

m o n i q u e v a n g e n d e r e n

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“THE LIBRARY: START THIS STORY OVER” BY LOS ANGELES ARTIST MONIQUE van GENDEREN OPENS TO THE PUBLIC, THURSDAY, SEPT. 24



(West Hollywood, CA): **The Library: Start This Story Over** is a project supported by The Pacific Design Center and “Design Loves Art,” an arts program featuring a series of rotating contemporary art exhibitions and talks in which different invited artists, galleries, independent curators and emerging architects participate in ongoing project rooms, exhibitions, multi-media events, and film/video screenings. The installation begins Thursday, Sept. 24 with a reception, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

One steps into a library with certain expectations: to be able to research, to find information, to connect clues from the present to the past, to view details of histories. For this exhibition Los Angeles artist Monique van Genderen has constructed her own idea of a library with books, shelves, wooden sculpture/furniture, even a fireplace. However these books have no text. The books are hand bound original abstract watercolors by the artist. The fireplace is a wall painting that one walks through to the next exhibit.

The backbone of this scenario is the story of the Dukhabors of Canada, which has fascinated the artist for some time. They are a Christian group of Russian origin who sought religious freedom in Canada and clashed with the government during the 1920s through the 60s. A faction called the "Sons of Freedom" infamously led arson campaigns as a protest against materialistic life, governmental restrictions and war. Opposed in principle to violence, they set fire to their own belongings and material possessions in order to exhibit their dislike of materialism and to display anarchistic attitudes toward external regulation. Most acts were committed in the nude.

Van Genderen's library, with its own historical clues, produces a Surrealist narrative of painting by surrounding the viewer with every element. "The Library: Start this Story Over" consists of books, seating, shelving, a wall painting of a fireplace, which references the Duchamp-inspired Société Anonyme, lace trim outline and "mirror" panel paintings. This library is a place to "read" paintings and ruminate on the idea of the blank slate. The bound books of watercolors act as frames for the paintings, housing the collection of individual abstractions. The shelves and benches act as frames for the books; a place for the books and the viewer to be and a way to present, house, and display the collection. This re-framing underscores the artist's ongoing dialogue with material and content in abstraction and their relation to spaces beyond the traditional limits of painting.

THROUGH DECEMBER 2009:

"The Library: Start This Story Over" by Monique van Genderen

VIEWING HOURS: Tue-Fri, Noon-5 PM, or by appointment

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