

Ola Vasiljeva

*University*

22 January – 14 March 2015

Opening 22 January 2015

*University* plays with the idea of experimental pedagogical systems, such as the Antiuniversity of London and The Institute of Phenomenological Studies, which formed critique to the major ideological institutions of the society. Such schools experimented with self-organised education and were founded in response to the intellectual bankruptcy and spiritual emptiness of the approved educational establishment. They proposed courses that departed from the conservative educational programs and idealized the unrestricted development of thought.

As the anti-universities reject conscious practices, Vasiljeva makes this idea of "un-learning" run parallel to the critique of reason and sense in general and uses language as her main material. She lets nonsense, fragmentation, forgetfulness and infinity triumph over reason, form, function and chronology.

The installation revolves around the encryption: fragmented language, nonlinear narrative, incomplete phrases, backward cursive and hieroglyphs that can only succeed in teasing the appetite for a logical meaning.

The work is populated by quotes culled from the manifestos of experimental schools and mimics the paraphernalia and methodical framework of such systems. *University* proposes a course, where the roles of teacher/student are interchangeable, where childhood dictates methodics; where madness, leisure and ignorance are a welcomed and an inspiring fact.

Ola Vasiljeva (Latvia, 1981) is the founder of OAOA (The Oceans Academy of Arts) an amorphous artist collective which functions as a vessel for ideas about art and ways of showing art works. Depending on each project, the participants are interchangeable as artists, collaborators, curators or viewers. OAOA publishes annually its zine. Ola Vasiljeva lives and works between Amsterdam and Düsseldorf. *University* is her first solo exhibition at Galerie Antoine Levi.

Notably, recent solo exhibitions include *The Limp of A Letter*, BOZAR, Brussels, 2015; *Jargot*, Art in General, New York, 2014; *The Limp of A Letter*, Prix de Rome, de Appel, Amsterdam, 2013; *Cinq à sept*, kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, 2013. Her work have also been included in significant group shows: *Society Acts - The Moderna exhibition 2*, Moderna Museet, Malmö, 2014; *Last Seen Entering the Biltmore*, South London Gallery, London, 2014; *What Were You Expecting, Mr. Milquetoast, a Plot?*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, 2014; *Fusifform Gyros*, Lisson Gallery, London, 2013.