

Dawn Kasper
THE AGE OF ANXIETY
May 21st—July 3rd, 2015

Dawn Kasper's work takes on the time and space of Dawn Kasper as material, as object, as something that can or cannot be used at her own discretion. In order to experience one of her performances this conceit must be recognized and agreed to.

It is also important to acknowledge Kasper's conceit that the elements that populate her performance—installations, while not “readymades,” have all existed before: recorded sound, drawings of old language, photographs and objects recreated from memory. Her body is not new, each movement that it makes has been made before. But with new contexts and combinations the objects and movements have new meaning.

This reuse is important to the artist as it mirrors our experience of the world around us, no longer is it possible to discern homage from pastiche, cynicism from metaphor or sampling from collage. Everything is a remake.

As such it is only fitting that the title of this show has also existed before, the title was originally found by Kasper in Allan Watt's *The Wisdom of Insecurity: A Message or an Age of Anxiety* (1961). But *The Age of Anxiety* title was first used by W.H. Auden in 1947 as a title for a long poem. Set in a New York bar, the poem addresses man's search for substance and identity in an increasingly shifting and industrialized world. The title was used again in 1949 by Leonard Bernstein for his Symphony No. 2 *The Age of Anxiety*, which he revised in 1965.

A few notes:

The Space:

I signed the lease for our expanded space just weeks before Kasper's show was slated to open. Naturally the buildout of an exhibition space then became a collaboration between the artist and the gallery. It was decided that while white walls would be built, the floor and ceiling would be left as-is. As Kasper so aptly put it: “I am the work, the space is the gallery... and the gallery is in transition.”

The Score:

The 5 photographs that constitute the subjects of the 5 images hanging in the gallery were taken by Kasper when she lived in Los Angeles and act as a score for the exhibition (Kasper moved to L.A. in 2001 to attend graduate school at U.C.L.A., she moved to New York, shortly after her 3 month long performance in the Breuer building as part of the 2012 Whitney Biennial). Each photograph was rephotographed in Redling Fine Art's gallery, creating a link between the time she had last lived in this city and the work she is doing today.

The Performance:

Kasper will conduct a series of actions from May 21st to May 31st, culminating in a durational performance **Sunday May 31st at 4pm.**