

Falke Pisano

Falke Pisano's work—articulated in a range of formats such as sculpture, performance-lectures, text, and conversation—circulates and reformulates ideas, language, and forms. Her long-term investigations—*Figures of Speech* (2006–2010), an exploration of the discursive potential of artworks, and *The Body in Crisis* (2011–), tracking changing conditions of the human body in historical moments of crisis—are structured as series of sometimes subtle, sometimes confrontational transfers from one work to another, from one context to the next.

Following the logic of a rehearsal, that is, testing how various parts of an anticipated activity come together while simultaneously rethinking and rereading their content and position, Pisano's Cycle at PRAXES develops as a spatial and intellectual experiment where a number of works and their various parts are dismembered, rearranged, and recomposed. With a cannibalistic approach that is very much in line with Pisano's own working mode, this Cycle conjoins two equally long periods of on-site investigations, entitled *Rehearsal I & II*, and a longer stretch of simultaneously live and published semi-public/semi-private reflections, entitled *Rehearsal III*.

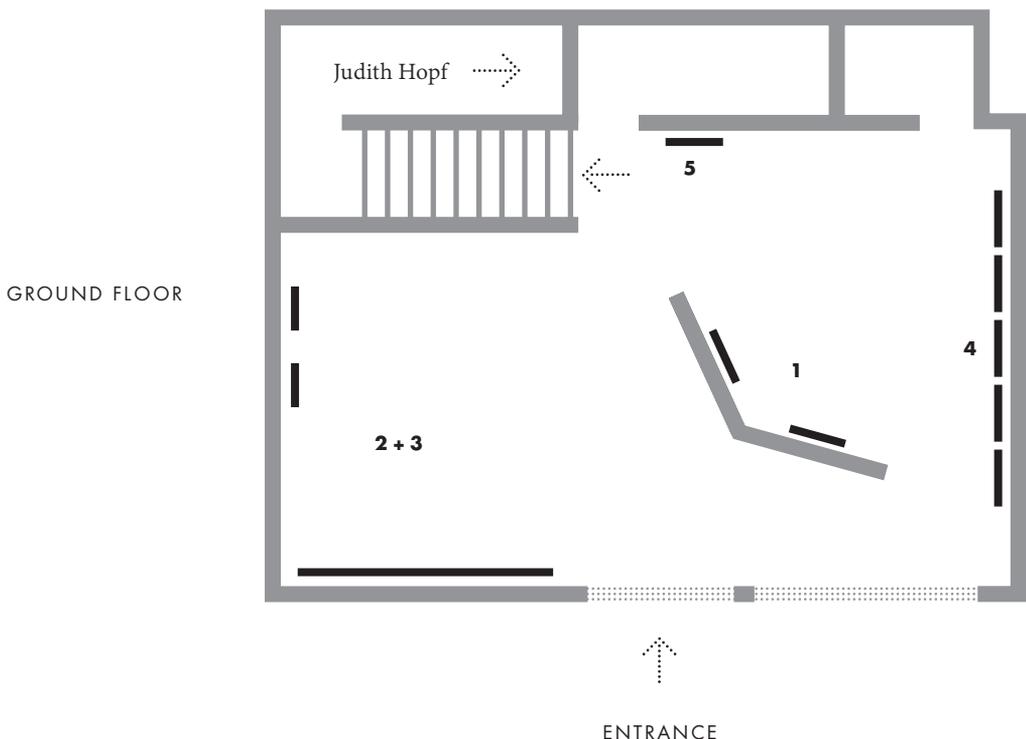
Rehearsal I, Take One: Parts That Do Not Go Together amplifies minor narratives, cross-readings, and slow articulations that gradually unfold between parts of works that belong to different systemic presentations. Five blackboards, dissembled from their adherent context of *The Body in Crisis*, bear chalk traces of half-erased drawings and unfinished words. Pages from the book project following the completion of *Figures of Speech* appear with satirical cartoons as postscript comments. A loosely tied narrative of damages inflicted by war, disease, and drugs amalgamates in a two-screen portrait of mental and physical disintegration of three characters, referencing, among them, Henri Michaux and his toxic experience: "In madness everything can happen because nothing is seen in perspective." Two sculptures lean against the wall like old friends casually sharing jokes, while their cut-outs are repositioned, puns redrawn and retold, in a series of strips.

To give space for surprising and unexpected encounters—the idiosyncratic details that might get overshadowed in a larger narrative—is to allow for the works to contradict and be contradicted by way of a wobbly language that twists and expands the more well-articulated pronunciation. Here, humor is a key ingredient in its ability to simultaneously destabilize and bridge. But most importantly, it is about the challenge and the privilege to enter a condition that neither implies nor requires a clear and consistent logic.

Falke Pisano recently had solo exhibitions at The Showroom, London (2013) and De Vleeshal, Middelburg (2012). Her work was included in the Istanbul Biennial (2013), the Shanghai Biennale (2012), and the 53rd Biennale di Venezia (2009). In 2013, she received the Prix de Rome. Originally from the Netherlands, Pisano lives and works in Berlin.

- 1** *Disordered Bodies Fractured Minds* (Private M., Patient A. & Traveller H.), 2012.
Two unsynchronized videos, monitors, headphones.
Source material: Drawings by George Grosz: Found footage from archival films; a clinical report by Major Andrew F. Hurst on the British sergeant and patient Private P. Meek, suffering from shell shock; samples of texts by Antonin Artaud; Henri Michaux's writings under hallucinogenic (Mescaline) influence.
- 2** *Repetition and Dispersion / 4 jokes become 5 (work)*, 2013.
Wooden ladder with works on paper, 4 framed collages.
- 3** *Repetition and Dispersion / 4 jokes become 5 (crime)*, 2013.
Wooden ladder with works on paper, 4 framed collages.
- 4** *Blackboards, Structure for Repetition (not Representation)*, 2011-2014.
Five blackboard panels with chalk drawings.
- 5** *Untitled book collages (Communication, Body, Text, Escape)*, 2011.
Original collages / paper-cuts.

* 1-4: Courtesy the artist, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam, and Hollybush Gardens, London.
5: Courtesy the artist and Collection Rob Heesen.



CYCLE 2: FALKE PISANO

31 January–2 March: Rehearsal I, Take One: Parts That Do Not Go Together
7 March–6 April: Rehearsal I, Take Two: Parts That Do Not Go Together
11 April–14 June: Rehearsal II: Heart Head Hold-up
31 January–14 June: Rehearsal III: Threading Third & Fourth Person