

ARTFORUM

Trisha Donnelly

AIR DE PARIS

32 rue Louise Weiss

January 17–March 14

With her mostly mute recent projections it becomes clear that noise is no mere synonym for sound for Trisha Donnelly but a constitutive aspect of any transmission. Featuring untitled works from this year and the last, this exhibition comprises six projections united by formal resonances and a hypnotic restructuring of time; their ambient light provides the only illumination for a single, demure drawing. Within the darkness glimmers a subtle approach to thinking through technological media and their relationship to language and experience.

In the longest of the looping videos we may recognize an outmoded “dip-and-dunk” film processor in action. That the dark, grainy footage paradoxically exposes the darkroom clearly appeals to Donnelly, whose show is punctuated by similar cognitive blips and flashes. Wave and cloud forms dominate, evoking analogies for signal and noise respectively. Crisp moving images are superimposed on low-resolution stills. Moiré patterns screen foggy valleys.

According to Hubert Damisch, clouds expose the limits of linear perspective as a representational system for painting. As a sign, the cloud’s lack of definable surface evades geometric description but is well suited to brushwork and the physical substance of paint. Donnelly is onto something similar with the way she sutures together vaguely photographic and cinematic materials in her projections. Her motifs are emblems of dynamic change. Unintended effects transfigure the signifier when it is filtered through the apparatuses that render technical images, loosening it from its representational function—as in the flash of light that solarizes a photograph developing in the darkroom. Interference becomes a generator of new forms. These days, we surf and save to the cloud with hardly a thought. In Donnelly’s luminous spaces, we’re left to our own devices to craft new metaphors for the information we register.



Trisha Donnelly, *Untitled*, 2014, projection, dimensions variable.

— *Phil Taylor*