

STYX

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Press
Release

Benjamin Laurent Aman: *As Long As You Stay With Me You Are Safe*

28 JANUARY – 16 FEBRUARY 2010

OPENING RECEPTION:

28 JANUARY 2010, 7 PM

»DAS WEEKEND« SOUND
PERFORMANCES:

28 JANUARY, 7–10 PM

29 & 30 JANUARY, 3–5 PM

OPEN FRIDAYS TO SUNDAYS

3–5 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

As an official contribution to the »Digital Art & Sound Weekend«, STYX Projects is pleased to present sound and visual artist Benjamin Laurent Aman's first solo show in Berlin, »As Long As You Stay With Me You Are Safe«.

Aman's work draws a circle around a situation defined by sound, light, installation elements, gallery, surroundings, and asks us to see what happens. And what happens, firstly, is that the circle breaks up: the lights go on and they go off, the field of the gallery space is broken up by pieces of furniture, people come and they go. The point is that the breaking of this circle is a beginning...

A sonic landscape surrounds these elements with a texture made up of breaks. Clean digital sounds derived from a basic wave generator toggle with and overlay the uncertain hiss and cracks of tape recordings. Yet the intention of this work is not simply to chop up an environment or disorient the viewers passing through it. A series of objects populate it – targets with bullet holes, pieces of furniture

– that anchor the audience passing through the exhibition, temporarily holding together sound, visual, and architectural elements.

These objects are comforting in that they hold our attention, but also uncanny in that they register a violence and a threat that is just outside of the situation we are experiencing. If a relational aesthetics taught us that art can be a matter of embodied, human, and social experience just as much as the private experience of aesthetic consumption it was so often taken to be, Aman's work suggests that these two kinds of experience are not incompatible. He invites us into a relational art that embraces the sounds and sights of humans, but also floorboards, the concrete and stone of buildings, the unpredictabilities of a neighborhood, and even the echoes of inorganic matter. Around the broken circle his installation draws for us, we pass both alone and together – a space that wants to be inhabited but can never be stepped into the same way twice.

A full-colored catalogue published by STYX Press will accompany the exhibition.

Throughout »DAS Weekend«, Aman will present several sound performances within his installation during STYX's opening hours.



Benjamin Laurent Aman, »Full Lights«, installation at Selasar Sunaryo Museum, Bandung, Indonesia, 2010 ©Photo: Arum Prameshwari

Benjamin Laurent Aman (* 1981 in Rouen) graduated in 2004 from the Nancy Academy of Fine Arts. Since then his work has been shown in numerous French and international group exhibitions. He has released about 30 records of experimental music and field recordings and is the founder of the cult underground label »Razzle Dazzle«. His work is held in FCAC Marseille as well as in private collections in Paris, Metz and Berlin. Aman lives and works in Berlin.