

Flash Art

Chuck Nanney

Jenny's / Los Angeles

This exhibition marks the first solo show in over ten years for Chuck Nanney, an artist closely associated with a group of Neo-Geo downtown New York artists and musicians like Olivier Mosset and Steven Parrino in the 1980s and '90s. Using an off-minimal language, works by Mosset and Parrino produce a visibility that incorporates the body and its political misuse and debasement. In a Nanney, it operates through the reaches of upheaval and disease — especially palpable in his slight, pop musical score of an installation at Jenny's.

The works peck and slide across the space in staccatos and glissandos of garish, neon-colored boops, bloops, blorps and burps. Slouching from the wall on its hinge is *mobile black hub (with blue streak)* (all works 2014), which fills up a small pocket of space casually like cytoplasm passing molasses-like into the extension of an amoeba, flaunting its artifice as it rotates to reveal a hard edge with its plies of wood. There are gestures of romance, as in *mobile secret love spell corner*, where two nearly identical, black-square panels with blue graphic marks pivot out, facing one another, sizing each other up in some den of sin.

As much as these bodies are overflowing and desirous, they are also imprisoned, as in *the nine pentacles stable composition*. Nanney has mounted this smallish, off-grid painting fully to the wall, BDSM-like, with exposed metal hardware on two sides. To be tethered might, in fact, be a pleasure here. At times, queerness seems to paradoxically code and contain itself, as in *mobile brain in a box*. Here a transparent, fluorescent yellow Plexiglas box fit for a Paul Thek meat piece sits atop a four-wheeled plywood platform, enclosing a wood block marked with wipes and veils of neon green and pink. Nanney's return in this exhibition appears like a gasp for the technologized and Truvada-imbibing body, searching to revivify itself despite all screen-based and pharmaceutical-induced amnesia.

by Paul Soto

