

# CHATEAUSHATTO

CÉCILE B. EVANS

*Something tactical is coming.*

January 5 – February 24, 2019

Opening reception Saturday, January 5

6-9pm

Cécile B. Evans' practice offers percipient, moving accounts of the governance and rebellion of human emotions, in particular as they come into contact with technological and physical structures that seek to rationalize or streamline them. Her films, sculptures and installations articulate moments of dissonance as instruments of capitalist progress and technological advancement come into contact with variable and uncontrollable human behaviors. Through narrative propositions, Evans explores this interface between humanity, the realities it produces, and its organizing infrastructures.

Over the past 24 months, Cécile B. Evans' work has been devoted to the realization of a multidirectional project entitled *Amos' World*, a fictional television show set in a socially progressive housing estate. Across three episodes, viewers are introduced to an architect named Amos – played by a puppet – and the tenants of the individual-communal complex he has built. As they become increasingly aware of the failures and tensions within the infrastructure they inhabit, Amos exhibits the anxiety of his plummeting power. In response to this breakdown, the tenants begin the complex task of negotiating a solution.

For the artist's first solo exhibition in the United States, Château Shatto is delighted to present *Something tactical is coming.*, a constituent part of *Amos' World*.

*Something tactical is coming.* repurposes a highly detailed and surrealistic scale model of an architect's office, a set used in *Episode Two of Amos' World*. The scale model presents a desk and bookshelf that fades into a raised den area, in which certain objects – chairs, posters, personal effects – have been replaced with flat surfaces painted in the distinctive chroma key blue. The backside of the model is lined with several small monitors displaying video rushes of characters filmed for *Episode Two* that play out a looping visual conversation concerned with biology, meteorology, humanity. A misting apparatus is embedded within the model, periodically releasing fog to induce the sensation that the staged room is itself the container for a brewing micro-system – a possible allusion to architect Le Corbusier's contentious concept for the ultimate living condition: "a cell."

Multiple smaller sculptures, whose forms are built around emptied out computer servers, are suspended at opposite ends of the gallery. Over several years, Evans has deployed the form of the server in her work, presenting it as a vessel that captures the deep analytics of human behavior, as well as capturing some of its most emotive and expressive correspondences. Housing different layers of printed images within the servers, these sculptures point towards the shared function of the server and the image: each is a storage unit capable of housing memories, or reproductions of reality. As a catchment for interactions that transpire online via conveyance technologies, the server is a vacant shell that fills up with artifacts of human thought, action and impulse. Evans inserts images into these servers grafted from Ernst Neufert's *Architect's Data* and images of flowers that fed into the artist's research of the Nargis, anthropomorphized daffodils that are characters in the three episodes. These physical assemblages offer isolated moments within the larger network that unfurls from *Amos' World*.

*Something tactical is coming.* has previously been exhibited at the Renaissance Society, Chicago in the exhibition, *Unthought Environments* and at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow in the exhibition, *Cellular World: Cyborg-Human-Avatar-Horror*, part of the Director's Program of Glasgow International, 2018. Forthcoming, Evans' work will be screened at Frieze Film during Frieze Los Angeles from February 15-17, 2019.

Cécile B. Evans (b. 1983, Belgian-American) lives and works in London. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include *Amos' World: Episode Three*, Museo Madre, Naples, 2019; *Amos' World*, Tramway, Glasgow, 2018; *Amos' World: Episode One*, mumok, Vienna, 2018; Art Basel Statements with Galerie Emanuel Layr, Basel, 2017; *Sprung A Leak*, Museum M, Leuven, 2017; *Amos' World: Episode One*, Castello di Rivoli, 2017; *Sprung a Leak*, Tate Liverpool, 2016; *What the Heart Wants*, Kunsthal Aarhus, 2016. Recent and upcoming group exhibitions include *Is This Tomorrow?*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, 2019; *Cellular World: Cyborg-Human-Avatar-Horror*, GoMA, Glasgow International, 2018; *Blind Faith*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, 2018; *Unthought Environments*, Renaissance Society, Chicago, 2018; *Common Front, Affectively*, Nam June Paik Centre, Seoul, 2018; *Hello World*, Mito Art Centre, Mito, 2018; *Still Human*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, 2017; *After Us*, K11, Shanghai, 2017; 7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art, 2017; Screening of *How Happy a Thing Can Be*, Whitney Museum, New York, 2017; 9th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, 2016. Evans was awarded the Schering Stiftung (2016), illy Present Future Prize (2016), the Andaz Art Award, (2015), Palais de Tokyo's Push Your Art Prize (2013) and the Frieze Award (formerly Emdash, 2012).