

BERLIN

TANYA LEIGHTON*Laura Schleussner*

Opening its doors this past July with a solo exhibition by Sharon Hayes, Tanya Leighton gallery is a newcomer definitely worth watching in Berlin's increasingly dense commercial scene. Opting for a site away from crowded Mitte and in an emerging gallery neighborhood peppered with start-ups (Kurfürstenstrasse), Leighton has put together an ambitious first-year program focusing on historical works, experimental cinema and younger artists rooted in a conceptual tradition.

As a curator who has held positions at the Whitney Museum and the ICA, among other institutions, Leighton has substantial expertise in the field of artist's film and video. Soon to be released is the joint Tate/Afterall publication she edited titled *Art and the Moving Image: A Critical Reader*. It is thus no wonder that names from the British film scene of the '60s and '70s like Peter Whitehead and John Smith appear

on her program. With this retrospective interest and an initial cache of artists (including Pavel Blücher, Rene Gabri and Dan Rees and lesser-known artists such as Xu Tan and Lucas Ospina), the gallery program promises to trace certain trajectories in the development of conceptual and film-based practice while remaining an eclectic and cross-generational selection of positions ranging from pop to socio-political critique.

Leighton is also planning an edition series, which will premier with works by Liam Gillick and Martha Rosler. Add a gallery bookstore of select, relevant publications and all in all the result seems to be a young commercial space with a refreshing amount of curatorial drive at a time when the booming market does not necessarily dictate the necessity for this degree of experimental daring.

September Show, 2008. Installation view at Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin.

