BLOUNMODERN PERFORMANCE / FILM OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016



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Romeo Castellucci Julius Caesan. Spared Paris, at Academy of Fine Arts Bologna, 2014. to be performed at Crossing the Line.

Lerri Laura Owens Installation view of Untilled, 2016, at the CCA Wattis Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Portfolio

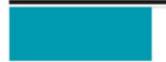
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Modern Painten, IS\$N 0953-6698, is published monthly with combined June/July and October/November issues and a special Fall issue by LTB Media (U.K.) U.d., an affiliate of SlouinArtinfo Corp. 88 Laight Street, New York, NY 10013, Vol. XXVIII, No. 9. Periodiates postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER, Send address changes to: Fulco, Inc., Modern Painters, PO Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834-3000.

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LIFESTYLES

RUNNING IN CIRCLES

Positive vibes for the Middle East

"AN EVER-INTENSIFYING exposure to Western-centric global media has dulled the effect of existing taboos in the Gulf region," the eight-member international art collective GCC-a tongue-incheek reference to the economic alliance known as the Gulf Cooperation Council—says in a joint statement. "As a result, a number of people there have become proponents of New Age lifestyles, whereas even 10 years ago, many would have probably disapproved of this and even deemed some aspects sacrilegious."

An import of sorts from Silicon Valley start-up culture, this regional development, which the collective terms "Healthy Living and Positive Lifestyles," is at the center of their new exhibition "Positive Pathways (+)," opening October 13 in New York at Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

GCC's multimedia work is rooted in the Gulf region—they initially formed at the 2013 edition of Art Dubai—but takes a self-consciously global perspective. Its members, scattered between the UAE, Europe, and the U.S., say that they are "impersonating a government body themselves," but such an approach implicates

the uncomfortably symbiotic relationship between the state and the corporation. "We've been interested in how the Gulf governments have come to embrace and spearhead their own form of neoliberalism and the shared interest, between governments and corporations, in quantifying the intangible and deeply personal search for happiness and turning it into an asset," they explain.

At Mitchell-Innes & Nash, a series of conceptual sculptures and related texts will extend the work the group showed in this year's Berlin Biennale, a sculpture of a mother and child engaging in a form of energyharnessing therapy known as Quantum Touch, placed in the center of a running track. The track is a central motif: "To us, it's an infrastructural manifestation of this culture, a ubiquitous sight in most Gulf cities," they say. "The tracks are a manifestation of an ideal citizen-productivity, fitness, and controlled walking environments, under harsh stadium lights." -THEA BALLARD

GCC

Installation view of *Positive Pathways* (+), 2016, at the Berlin Biennale.

