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ELLEN CANTOR
MY PERVERSION IS THE BELIEF IN TRUE LOVE
EXHIBITION
03.02..2018 - 24.03.2018

Ellen Cantor combined ready-made materials with diaristic notes and drawings to probe her perceptions and experiences of personal desire and institutional violence. In her drawings, paintings, collages, and videos, Cantor lifted characters and sequences from iconic films, reorienting the ideological transmissions of the source material. Fictional figures from Disney cartoons, cult horror films, New Wave cinema, and family movies provide a visual foil to Cantor's intimate disclosures. Magnetised by the doleful naivety of characters such as Snow White and Bambi, Cantor would, in her drawings, extend their narrative horizons to include vivid sexual encounters and crisis-ridden relationships.

My Perversion is the Belief in True Love is what Cantor titled the only survey exhibition of her videos held in her lifetime. This phrase, a sincere emotional disclosure doubled up as an affront to the structural "perversions" of normative desires, gets to the root of the materials in this exhibition. Cantor's work always proceeds with a certain force of will: political in intent, figurative, precise, dramatic, emotional, and, as Cantor herself liked to put it, "adult in subject matter."

Ellen Cantor (b. Detroit, USA 1961–2013) was a prolific artist working between New York and London. Cantor's solo exhibitions included *Within a Budding Grove*, Participant Inc., New York (2008); *Bambi's Beastly Buddies*, Sketch, London (2005); *Transmission Gallery*, Glasgow (2000); *My Perversion is the Belief in True Love*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (1999); *Video 1995–1998*, Kunstverein Salzburg, Austria (1999); and *Remember the 14 Days and Nights*, Vorarlberger Kunstverein, Bregenz, Austria (1997).