

GERARD
& KELLY

POLE

Narrative Introduction

POLE is an ongoing project that explores the social constructions of racial difference, sexuality and gender through the language of pole-dancing.

The cast for *POLE* includes performers from New York and Paris, from within contemporary dance/performance circles and from communities of dancers largely organized beyond this world, from the street and the subway, where dance forms are developing differently and with different socio-economic pressures.

Included in this group are some of the innovators of the form subway-pole, an adaptive re-use of the New York transit infrastructure that has created a cultural space largely occupied by young, African-American men. Through a shared interest in dance Gerard & Kelly have developed a collaboration with several of the dancers, working together in 2015 as part of a residency at the New Museum in New York.

POLE is a performance installation presented in a non theatrical space (a museum gallery, a public plaza, an atrium, a flexible performance space) over several hours each day during which time the public can come and go.

In 2018, *POLE* will be re-created for presentations in the US and France, exploring the productive notion of “post-nationalism” while interrogating the ways that racism, colonialism, and heteronormativity produce social relations in different contexts. *POLE* incorporates a creative collaboration with Rio Uribe of the brand GYPSYSPORT who is working with Gerard & Kelly to develop costumes and installation materials.

Performers include Forty Smooth, TyTy Love, Roz the Diva Mays, Lauren Bakst, Matthieu Barbin, and Dorothe Munyaneza.

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Tyke Turner.

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Forty Smooth.

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Tanya St. Louis.

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Forty Smooth and Tanya St. Louis.



Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Tyke Turner and TyTy Love.



Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Justin Tate and Roz "The Diva" Mays.



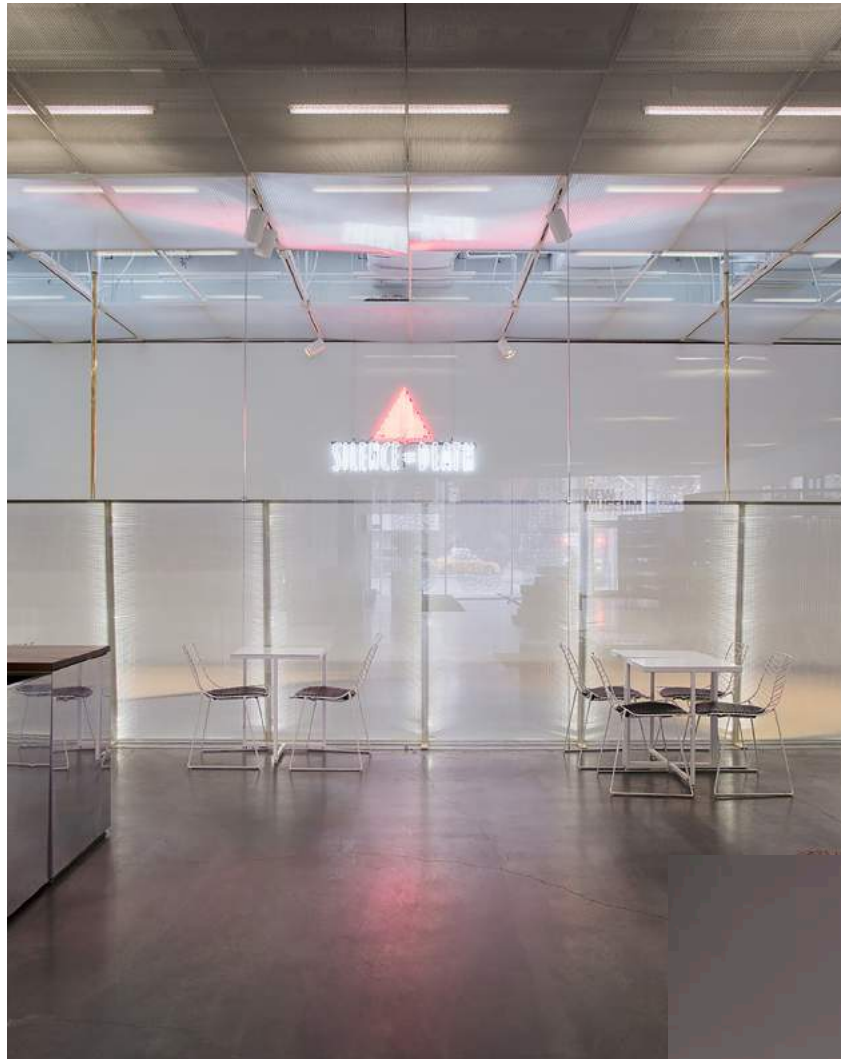
Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Performance view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015. Pictured:
Lauren Bakst.



Installation Views

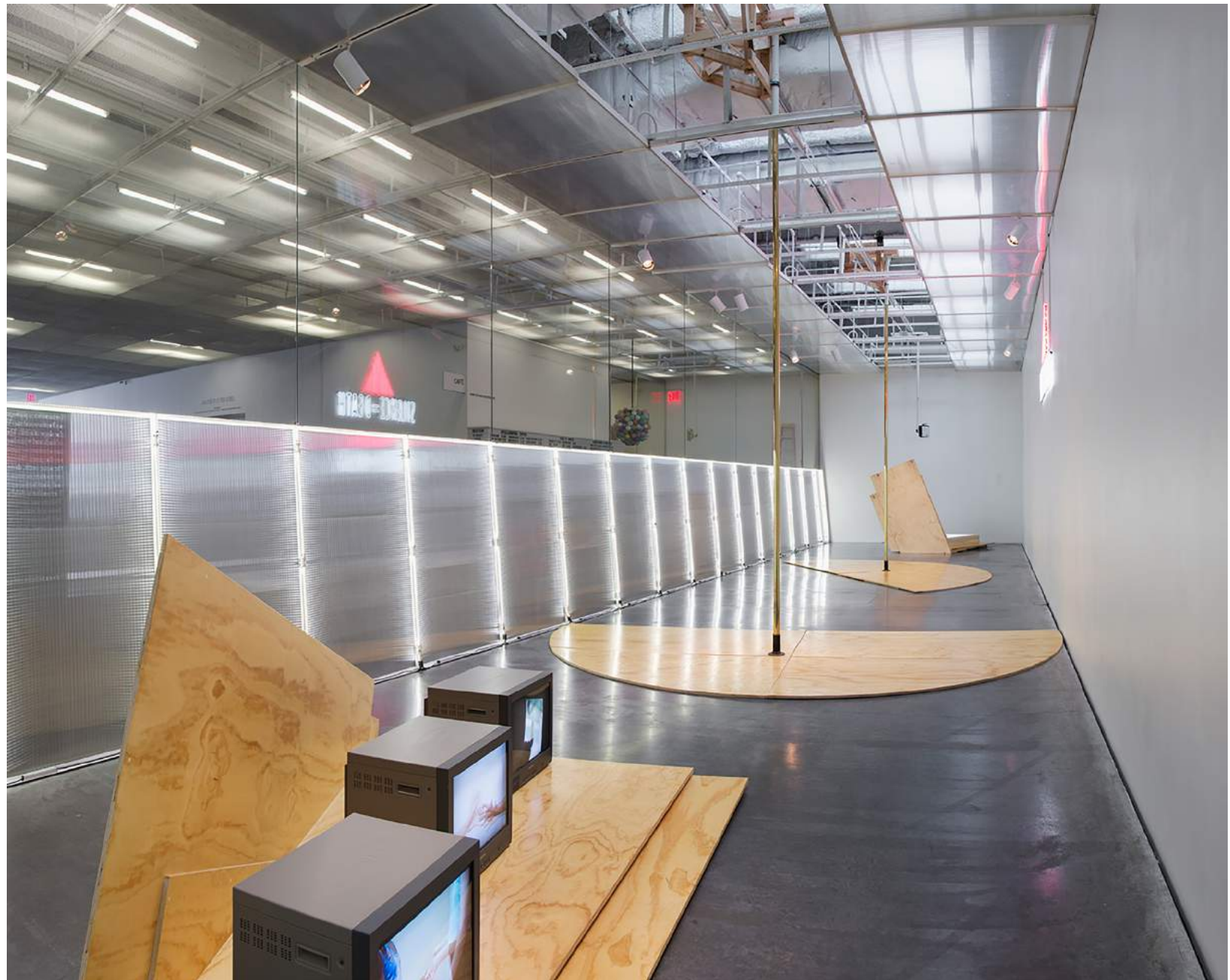
Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Installation view with ACT UP
(Gran Fury), *SILENCE=DEATH* (1987),
The New Museum, New York, NY,
February 2015.

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Installation view with ACT UP
(Gran Fury), *SILENCE=DEATH* (1987),
The New Museum, New York, NY,
February 2015. Pictured: Forty Smooth
and Tanya St. Louis.



Installation Views

Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E.* (2015).
Installation view, The New Museum,
New York, NY, February 2015.



Artists' Biography

Brennan Gerard and Ryan Kelly have collaborated since 2003. Their installations and performances use choreography, writing, video, and sculpture to address questions of questions of memory, sexuality, and the formation of queer consciousness.

Their work has been exhibited internationally at Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Guggenheim Museum, New York; New Museum, New York; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and The Kitchen, New York; among other institutions. Their ongoing project Modern Living has been presented by The Glass House, New Canaan, Connecticut, and the MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House, Los Angeles, in association with Art Production Fund.

Gerard & Kelly completed the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in 2010, and received their MFAs in 2013 from the UCLA Department of Art. They have received numerous recognitions for their work, including the 2014 Juried Award from The Bessies as well as grants from the National Dance Project (2015), Art Matters (2014), and the Graham Foundation (2014).

Their work is in the public collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and the Guggenheim Museum, New York. Gerard & Kelly live and work in Los Angeles and New York.