

ARTFORUM

Previews

May 2019

“DAWN KASPER: THE WOLF AND THE HEAD ON FIRE”

Portikus

May 4-June 30

Curated by Christina Lehnert

If you have ever met Dawn Kasper over the course of her decadelong couch-surfing occupation of major exhibition, known officially as the *Nomadic Studio Practice*, 2008-, chances are you remember the encounter but can't quite recall the particulars. Like the loquacious houseguest who keeps you up until 4 AM, Kasper speaks in a hypnotic, wildly associative stream of consciousness that's half comic, half cosmic. Her antic energy also permeates her bric-a-brac installations, whose maximalism borders on that of works by her former employer Jason Rhoades. At Portikus, Kasper will draw inspiration from “The Wolf and the Kid,” Aesop's fable about a billy goat who distracts a hungry wolf by asking to dance to one last song (it's the animal-farm equivalent of Scheherazade's storytelling in *The Arabian Nights*). Expect film screenings by Jeff Preiss, musical collaborations with Zeena Parkins, performances with Andrew Lampert, and creeping suspicion that only jittery, joyful, improvisation will stave off imminent disaster.

—Colby Chamberlain