

immediate release

Platos's Cave at EIDIA House
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PLATO'S CAVE

EIDIA House presents

Mark Shorter
"The Groker"



The Groker, still photograph from performance, Plato's Cave NYC © 2015 Mark Shorter

Closing reception Friday February 20, 2015 6-8pm

Exhibition: January 24 – February 21, 2015

Hours 1-6pm, Wednesday – Saturday (or by appointment)

The 21st artist in the Plato's Cave series, Mark Shorter wraps his exhibit "The Groker" with a post-performance installation and video.

"The Groker" humorously considers certain base instincts and desires that inform and challenge our social etiquette. The term "groke" is an old Scottish verb that means to look longingly at someone's food. To groke is to be like a dog gazing in a kind of tortured rapture at a juicy steak while it is being consumed. Importantly, groking is not begging; the true Groker never says, "please sir, can I have some more", to do so would end the groke. In this sense to groke is to perform an action that is beyond language as the subject exists in a state of uncontrollable and captivated desire. Strangely the term has fallen out of modern parlance, which is odd if you consider just how much groking goes on these days. Groking is everywhere, you groke when you linger too long trying to ingratiate yourself with your boss at a work function. You groke when you stare uncontrollably

at a gorgeous person at a bar and of course you groke every time you visit the butchers, unless of course you're a vegetarian and then you groke juices.

Mark Shorter hails from Sydney, Australia and is soon to take a post at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne as lecturer in Sculpture and Spatial Practices. He studied at the National Art School, Sydney and the Sydney College of the Arts where he completed a PhD in Visual Arts. Shorter has exhibited extensively throughout Australia. Significant exhibitions and performances include: 50 Ways to Kill Renny Kodgers, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Hobart, 2014, presented as a part of the Dark MOFO festival; Acts of Exposure, a survey of his Schleimgurgeln performance and video series, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2013; and Renny Kodgers LIVE with Pee Pee, presented as part of the Biennale of Sydney's Superdeluxe@Artspace, 2010. From 2010 to 2012 he was the host of The Renny Kodgers Quiz Hour on FBI 94.5FM and in early 2014 he published Quixotic Visions: Tino La Bamba's Great Australian Adventure.

For PLATO'S CAVE, EIDIA House Inc. Co-Directors Melissa P. Wolf and Paul Lamarre (aka EIDIA) curate invited fellow artists to create an installation with an accompanying edition for the underground space PLATO'S CAVE. EIDIA House functions as an art gallery and meeting place, collaborating with artists to create "socially radical" art forms—framed within the discipline of aesthetic research. In 2012 Wolf and Lamarre were appointed Research Affiliates of the University of Sydney.

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Plato's Cave Wed-Sat 1-6pm or by appointment.

Contact Paul Lamarre or Melissa Wolf, 646 945 3830, email to eidiahouse@earthlink.net
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Mark Shorter : <http://markshorter.com.au/>