

# Olivia Mole

## YOGAFLOGOGO

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 7, 2015

PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015

7:30 - 9:30 PM

### Live cast

The Outer Limit Of Your Body – Sylvie Nelson  
Future Teen Cave Witch Polly Propylene – Sadie Alan  
Future Teen Cave Witch Polly Ethylene – Antonia Duble

### Video cast

ASSK Elizabeth – Elizabeth Kouri  
Proto Teen Cave Witch Polly Propylene – Sophie Fyfe  
Proto Teen Cave Witch Polly Ethylene – Zara Jamey  
Your Inner Voice – “Tessa”

### Lovely piling up of stuffs

Olivia Mole's YOGAFLOGOGO is a performance and ongoing installation enacting the tension between interiority and materiality. Animated and live characters attempt to create a workable system to decipher the chaos around them. The performers' ritualistic games and the surrounding videos explore physicality and material culture, gazing into the equally surreal landscapes of an unseeable interior and an imaginary TV land. These actions site the body at the crossroads of essentialist matter and language, cultural detritus (of TV jingles, exercise gear, gender stereotypes) and the imaginary.

The performance space and installation resembles a living room within a domestic sitcom, a cartoon cave or the perspectival grid of *Star Trek's* holodeck—a framework ready for the skin of a projected reality. Two young women, Future Teen Cave Witch Polly Propylene and Future Teen Cave Witch Polly Ethylene, and a television playing only static activate the set. In the process of trying to make the TV work, the Pollys' prosaic actions inadvertently reflect symbolic shifts in history, economics and spiritual traditions, gesturing at both the evolution of our conception of subjecthood and the formation of individual identity. The actors, young women on the cusp of adulthood, who are so often the canvas for society's projections and fetishizations, represent a state of flux within a matrix of systems encoding the human body.

Outside this interaction, an animated automated voice provides Greek chorus asides. A third live character, named The Outer Limit of Your Body, acts as a mediator, coach or referee, introducing the performance's action with chanted football plays. The Outer Limit of Your Body provides the girls with tools for making meaning. As the action progresses, she fashions a golden totem or *omphalos*—a stone in ancient Greek myths that allowed the oracle at Delphi her powers of insight—from sports paraphernalia and sparkly garlands.

The Pollys are named for two of the most common forms of plastic, the human-made base materials of consumer culture. If plastic and television signals represent the building blocks of contemporary capitalist life, then amorphous blobs of animated mucous and television static are the primordial matter of our time. The girls alternately chant around a cauldron like stereotypical witches and collapse together in a colorful pile. Their non-sensical dialog, repeated questions and loops of action and inaction evoke a Beckett-esque scenario of characters adrift in time and space, ungrounded by a fixed narrative.

The girls' incantations eventually conjure the TV to life, displaying fitness guru and oracle Elizabeth, who pulls divine prediction literally out of her ass as she bounces around like a perky Jane Fonda meets Carolee Schneemann. Using the tropes of exercise and self-improvement shows, the *ASSK Elizabeth* show investigates the unknowable truth inside the body. Requests for advice are met with runes and cryptic responses. When The Outer Limit of Your Body encourages the Pollys to decipher the symbols the girls unwittingly enact the formation of language.

As Schneemann's *Interior Scroll* (1975) alluded to the wisdom and rationality of the body, Mole honors the symbolic intelligence of interiority while also acknowledging its absurd and undignified excesses. Videos throughout the installation explore the theater of endoscopy, journeying through the body to reveal medieval mystics abiding inside. Adorable animated kitties leap about, lap up excreted fluids and expel golden piles of gleaming hairballs. Colorful speech bubbles are emitted by the body of a monstrosously masked dancer.

Mole's fluid approach slips between cartoonish pop culture referents and quotes from theorists such as Luce Irigaray and Georges Bataille. This slippage forms a dense and fluffy matrix through which we can contemplate the systematic encoding of the body and subjecthood. Her work imagines surreal new positions from which to consider the possibilities of 'recoding' this matrix of gender, commodification and our perceived needs and desires, like a lovely piling up of stuffs.

—Valerie Imus

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Some of the words used have previously been used by Georges Bataille, The Bee Gees, Walter Benjamin, Cilla Black, Bugs Bunny, Judith Butler, Dante, Aretha Franklin, James Joyce, Luce Irigaray, Andrew Luck, Spike Milligan, Jean-Luc Nancy, Sally Potter, unnamed humans of Upper Paleolithic Europe and William Shakespeare.



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SOUTHERN  
EXPOSURE

3030 20th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
t. 415/863-2141  
f. 415/863-1841  
[www.soex.org](http://www.soex.org)



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**JANUARY 9 - MARCH 7, 2015**

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