Kleenex Mathematics & Put Your Eye in Your Mouth

Presentation House Gallery is hosting a pair of upcoming exhibitions featuring the premiere of new works by Johannes Wohnseifer and Zin Taylor. In conjunction with the exhibitions, the gallery will launch two artist-designed publications by these same artists.

The phrase Kleenex Mathematics is taken from a spam email, one of thousands that Cologne, Germany based artist Johannes Wohnseifer has been collecting and archiving over the last year. The artist has utilized the text of these junk emails by transcribing them directly and unedited onto a series of paintings and photographs. In conjunction with an exhibition of works from this series, PHG is also publishing a selection of Wohnseifer’s photographs in the second of their ongoing artist publication series Lynn Valley. Lynn Valley 2, Kleenex Mathematics will be launched at the opening of Wohnseifer’s exhibition.

Also premiering is an ambitious new video by Toronto/Antwerp based artist Zin Taylor. Put Your Eye in Your Mouth is a 22-minute fictional documentary on renowned German artist Martin Kippenberger (whom Wohnseifer was once studio assistant) and the artist’s fabled METRO-Net project. Before his death in 1997 at the age of 44, Kippenberger was a leading figure and enfant terrible of the ‘90s Cologne art scene. The METRO-Net was a mischievous idea for a fake global underground railway that Kippenberger imagined consisting of subway station entrances (leading nowhere) sprinkled around the world. Three stations were realized, one in Germany, another in Greece and strangely, one in Dawson City, Yukon. Taylor traveled to the Yukon to document the (now quickly deteriorating) remains of Canada’s METRO-Net station alongside dramatic reenactments of its conceptualization and creation. In conjunction with the exhibition, PHG will co-publish a script of the video as an artist’s bookwork, designed by Taylor and co-published with Toronto’s YYZ Books.