

January 19 to March 24, 2013

Anna Oppermann: *Filiations*

Andrea Pinheiro: *Bomb Book*

Marianne Wex: *Let's Take Back Our Space*

Opening Reception and Book Launch on Saturday, January 19, at 7 pm

Andrea Pinheiro and Marianne Wex will be in attendance and introduce their exhibitions at 7 pm.

Talk by Los Angeles writer and artist, Avigail Moss, Saturday, February 2, at 3 pm.

Presentation House Gallery is pleased to showcase three concurrent exhibitions that highlight experimental approaches to photography and archival documentation. These artists have conducted intensive research and collected material into unique formats. This occasion marks the first time that the German artists, Anna Oppermann and Marianne Wex, will be seen in Canada. Influenced by the political and social concerns, especially feminism, of the 1970s, they rigorously questioned what it means to be an artist. Anna Oppermann freely extended works over several iterations continually reviving originals into new configurations, as suggested by the title, *Filiations*. Her highly subjective archives, what she called "ensembles", are fragmented assemblages of photographs, paper scraps, notes, drawings, photographic canvases and objects, often displayed on and around low, altar-like podiums. This exhibition features two ensembles and photographic canvases. From 1972 to 1977, Marianne Wex took thousands of photographs of women and men in the streets of Hamburg, and re-photographed images from mass media. She collaged the results into large panels and a book entitled *Let's Take Back Our Space: "Female" and "Male" Body Language as a Result of Patriarchal Structures* (1979). The collection of photographs form a remarkable sociological study of how we create and present ourselves, and the degree to which gender-specific conditioning and hierarchies are reflected through everyday pose, gesture, and pre-verbal communication. Andrea Pinheiro, a Vancouver artist and curator currently teaching at Algoma University in Sault St. Marie, has spent a decade conducting research into bomb blasts. *Bomb Book* is a 12-volume, 2,450-page publication that documents every nuclear bomb detonation in the world since 1945 with the name of one bomb on each page, and where tests were unnamed, a blank page. The artist has produced a highly unique historical archive that, significantly, contains no images but is simply a register of names.

The Oppermann exhibition is organized with assistance from Gallerie Barbara Thumm in Berlin. The Pinheiro book is a co-publication with Publication Studio, Vancouver. The Wex exhibition is organized by Yale Union, Portland, Oregon, with assistance from the Bildwechsel Archive in Hamburg, Germany.