

Nina Canell, "Reflexology"

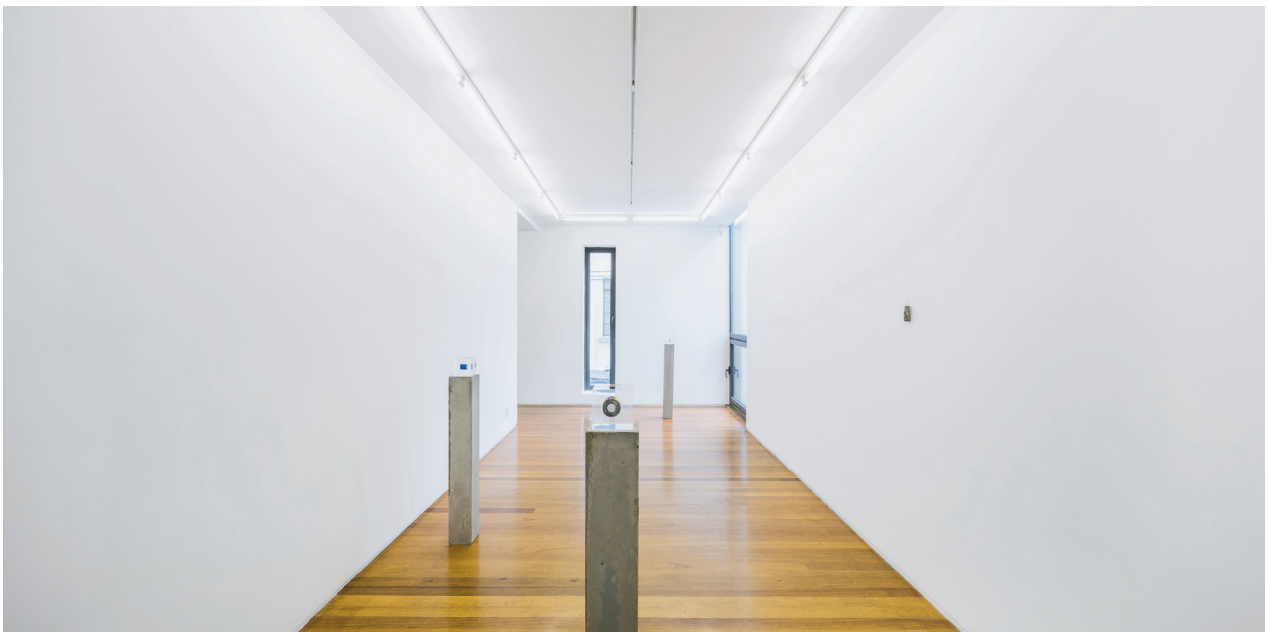
Leo Xu Projects (Lane 49, Building 3, Fuxing Xi Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai 200031, China), Nov 9, 2016–Jan 15, 2017

In the ground floor space at Leo Xu Projects is a yellow-green carpet on which lies the sole of a shoe (the artist's). Diagonally opposite is a roll of partly tangled tape hanging from the ceiling, and rubber bands (collected by Nina Canell). Extending a straight line from the rubber band to the corner of the wall opposite, it will hit upon a bronze pipe that snugly fits the shape of the wall corner. Right where the corner turns, the pipe is replaced by a neon light; the rope connected to the pipe stretches out into the next room, where in the opposite corner is a "device" (the artist calls this a sleeping device) emitting a noise filling the room. Occasionally, a timer that announces the time will break up the noise, instigating an instant of silence. If this brief moment of tranquillity has something to do with sleeping, then Canell's work up to this point recalls for me that moment of awaking from sleep, lying on the sofa, the remote having dropped from one's hand to the floor, and who knows when the television programs had finished with the night-time weather forecasts and the screen reverted to its war-of-the-ants static, humming that tidal-sounding sound. The watch says it's still too early to get up, and it's too late to go back to work. Resentfully, you turn off the TV, wash, and sleep.

The ability to place seemingly unconnected objects together and then use basic physical elements—rubber bands, semi-conductors, welded parts, wiring, noise—to connect them: all this meticulously presents the combination of scientific logic and a dreamer's illogic with which Canell's work invests everyday objects and readymades.

Cool, simple exteriors and intriguing work titles ("Jelly-filled vowel", "Brief Syllable (heavy)") hint at a relationship with sound and perception. In the sculpture in the second floor space, which is made of high-pressure optical cables sectioned off and sealed inside glass before being placed on top of a concrete pedestal—Canell touches on a complex relation [of the actual object] from Berlin to Shanghai, from Pudong to Puxi, from the narrow windows of the gallery to the concrete pedestal base [they relate in a certain ratio].

The title of the exhibition "Reflexology" of course first makes one think of foot massages; it is also the principle of conditioned response, as in Pavlov's dog. Canell's work ponders exchange and misunderstanding, a proposition succinctly represented using scientific theories annotated with art. Art creates connections between disciplines, overriding national and regional boundaries, and fosters the mutual enjoyment of artists of different generations. This, in part, is the theme for "Mirrored" which is to be shown in the Nordic pavilion at the Venice Biennale next year, curated by the Moderna Museet. Nina Canell will be the youngest of six participating artists.



尼娜·卡内尔, "反射穴", 展览现场 (感谢LEO XU PROJECTS提供配图) / Nina Canell, "Reflexology", installation view. Courtesy Leo Xu Projects.



尼娜·卡内尔，《最柔软角落》，铜、霓虹灯、氛变压器、电缆，尺寸可变（感谢LEO XU PROJECTS提供配图），2016 / Nina Canelli, "Softest Corner", copper, neon, neon transfer, cable, Dimensions variable, 2016. Courtesy Leo Xu Projects.



尼娜·卡内尔，《自由空间通路遗失》，高温、氧化指纹、铜管，84.5 x 2.5 x 117 cm，2016（感谢 LEO XU PROJECTS提供配图） / Nina Canell, "Free-space Path Loss Heat", oxidized fingerprints, copper, 84.5 x 2.5 x 117 cm, 2016. Courtesy Leo Xu Projects.



尼娜·卡内尔，《双翼馆》，调频发射器、调频电台接收器、蚊虫活动磁场静电录音，尺寸可变（与 Robin Watkins 共同创作），2014（感谢 LEO XU PROJECTS 提供配图） / Nina Canell, "Two-Winged Pavilion", FM transmitter, FM radio receiver, electrostatic field recordings of midges and the magnetosphere, Dimensions variable (Produced with Robin Watkins), 2014. Courtesy Leo Xu Projects.



尼娜·卡内尔, 《简单音节 (重)》, 地下电缆、亚克力、混凝土, 16.5 x 16.5 x 111 cm (感谢LEO XU PROJECTS提供配图) / Nina Canell, "Brief Syllable (Heavy)", subterranean electricity cable, acrylic, concrete, 16.5 x 16.5 x 111 cm, 2016. Courtesy Leo Xu Projects.