

RYAN LEE

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RLWindow
EIDIA – Melissa Wolf and Paul Lamarre
Done Decks
July 11 – August 10, 2018

With *Done Decks*, EIDIA's installation for RLWindow departs from the topic of "food" (as in the adjacent RYAN LEE exhibition featuring highlights from FOOD SEX ART the Starving Artists' Cookbook & Video Series) and enters into the world of Skateboarders. EIDIA bridges these topics by suggesting that, like artists performing with their "food," the skateboarders, as creative individuals, act "Play" far beyond the age that our society finds acceptable. And artists seem to engage in similar behavior.

In his book *The Utopia of Rules*, David Graeber suggests that "Play" is more of a creative source than "Games." To paraphrase: "Games" require participants to follow rules whereas "Play" involves free-form creativity. "It's about the play principle in nature... instead of being rule-following economic drones of capitalism, we are essentially playful" (Melville House, New York: 2015).

Nonetheless with "Play" being the driver in *Done Decks*, EIDIA garnered serious inspiration for the installation from John McCracken's monolithic vertical pseudo surfboard planks, Gary Hill's role as a child skateboarder in the movie *Skater Dater* (1965) and Marcel Duchamp's *Fresh Widow* (1920), which suggests the "illusion" of art as it is traditionally framed behind glass as the "window" through which everyday life is framed. The title *Done Decks* alludes to the skateboard decks that are discarded when the skateboarder is finished with them. Left behind and then retrieved as objects, EIDIA values the life experience reflected in the degradation of the decks' original "art face." A key aspect in the "aesthetic research" of EIDIA's practice spanning the past decade is repurposing and recontextualizing previously created objects, and here EIDIA redefines the purpose of the deck, instruments of earthly flight. For this unique installation, the done decks are no longer in horizontal positions but vertical and spinning—reminded of their function in a previous life, flying and flipping on the streets.

While editing one of duo's films in San Antonio, Texas, Lamarre did a tandem skydive jump with a noted "Skysurfer." The idea of balancing on a board or boards sailing through air has since come and gone in Lamarre's dreams—"Ideas often come to me in the dark of the night."

Paul Lamarre and Melissa P. Wolf are artists from New York City who work collaboratively under the name EIDIA ("Everything I Do Is Art.") Together, they serve as co-executive directors of EIDIA House, a Brooklyn-based meeting place and forum for artists, scholars, poets, writers, architects and others interested in "idée force" the arts as an instrument for positive social change. EIDIA's practice presents its form through multimedia installations, photography, sculpture, video, painting and aesthetic research. Their endeavors explore the dynamics of art politics, social spaces and the environment. EIDIA works are in numerous private collections, museums, art institutions and in over 200 prominent universities and colleges internationally.

Discarded decks were generously donated by KCDC Skateshop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Concurrently on view at the gallery is *FOOD SEX ART the Starving Artists' Cookbook* (July 11–August 10) and **Christopher Cook: *Shadows We Run For*** (July 11–August 10).

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