



Cul-de-sac

group exhibition

opens Saturday, October 1, 12-6 pm

through December 11, 2022

The group exhibition, *Cul-de-sac*, marks the beginning of the end for the Cathouse FUNeral / Proper gallery project in its current form. *Cul-de-sac* is the first in a series of shows scheduled for the 2022-2023 season that will celebrate our ten years of art activity—and six years at 524 Projects—by meditating on cultural memory and its relationship to the art object as we bring the current gallery program to a close in June 2023.

The shape and purpose of a “cul-de-sac” (translated literally from the French as “bottom of the sack” and defined as a street with no exit, yet terminating in a circular space for reversal) begins this season-long meditation by drawing a correlation between our physical gallery space, which is in the shape of a cul-de-sac, and the act of ending. Hence, the designation “cul-de-sac” is brought to bear both on the gallery as *space* and the gallery program as *duration*.

Like the Cathouse FUNeral / Proper gallery project itself, which has been a years-long series of interrelated exhibitions, the group exhibition, *Cul-de-sac*, will unfold sequentially over time, with new artwork added each week, revisiting several of the artists that we have worked with in the past, as well as a few artists new to the program. The initial moves for this exhibition have been worked out, but the endgame is not yet known, nor are all of the artists’ works that will be installed and/or performed before closing the exhibition on December 11. (Please follow us on instagram @cathouse_proper for the most complete accounting of ongoing installation and scheduling updates.)

To begin the show, on opening day, we will install in the center of the empty main gallery Michael Ashkin’s sculpture *No. 43* (1996), which employs another sort of street metaphor, a

parking lot, depicted in miniature and bifurcated by a train track with a single, stranded parked car. Each week, thereafter, another work or series of works will be installed, each with its own time signature and/or relevance as to the comings and goings of art activity, its manifest subjects and objects, its relics and wreckage, its absolutes and eternal returns.

Ultimately, with *Cul-de-sac*, like a painting evolving toward completion, we will only know what it is—the totality of its constituent parts, its final judgement, so to speak—when it is over. The closing then is the opening for what has been and now is; while asserting, one suspects, that a cul-de-sac is no dead-end.

Image: detail of Michael Ashkin's *No. 43* (1996), wood, dirt, paint, n-scale models, etc.

Michael Ashkin is the first artist to install his work in *Cul-de-sac* (others will follow). Ashkin's work spans various media, including sculpture, installation, photography, video, poetry, and text. His work addresses issues of landscape and urbanism, specifically the intersection of subjectivity, visual and linguistic representation, and the social, economic, and political production of space. Ashkin's work has been exhibited at Documenta 11 (2002), the Whitney Biennial (1997), the Vienna Secession (2009), among others in the U.S. and abroad. He has published four photobooks, *were it not for* (2019), *Horizont* (2018), *Long Branch* (2014), and *Garden State* (2000). Ashkin has received two Pollock-Krasner Grants (1997, 2012) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2009). He received a B.A. in Oriental studies from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. in Mideast languages and cultures from Columbia University, and holds an M.F.A. in painting and drawing from the Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently a faculty member at Cornell University.



Cathouse Proper @ 524 Projects
524 Court Street, 2nd floor (enter Huntington St.)
Brooklyn, NY 11231

NEW HOURS
Fridays–Sundays, 12–6pm
and by appointment

F/G to Smith & 9th St.

The gallery is situated on unceded indigenous Lenape land.

The gallery is located on the second floor accessible by stairs only; should you need assistance gaining entry, please contact the gallery before or upon arrival.

For information, press and sales inquires contact David Dixon
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