

Public, Private, Secret @ICP

By [Loring Knoblauch](#) / In [Museums](#) / July 21, 2016

JTF (just the facts): A large group show containing the work of 57 different artists/photographers, variously displayed in a series of 3 connected gallery spaces and the back stairwell. The exhibit was organized by Charlotte Cotton, with assistance from Pauline Vermare and Marina Chao.

The following artists/photographers have been included in the show, with the number of works on view, their processes and dates as background:

Gallery 1

- Jon Rafman: 1 video, 7 minutes, 2014
- Natalie Bookchin: 3 videos, 7 minutes 10 seconds, 2009/2016
- Doug Rickard: 1 video, 10 minutes, 2012
- Martine Syms: 1 video/sequences, 10 minutes, 2014-2016

One of the most thoughtful pairings in the show comes at the very beginning, before we really grasp the larger thesis of the exhibit. It matches videos from Jon Rafman and Natalie Bookchin on opposing walls, and while the soundtracks of the two step on each other in a distracting way, their messages are smartly interlocked. Rafman's video is a menu of Internet fetish and deviance, from a disturbing clip of the deliberate crushing of a live crustacean and snippets of a wiggling hog-tied person in a plush green frog suit to a rattling washing machine that ultimately destroys itself and a man who smashes a watermelon between his thick thighs. In Rafman's probing of the human psyche, the seductive and repulsive are interchangeable, the definitions of inspired and demented just two sides of the same coin. On the opposite wall, Bookchin inverts the idea that the Internet is home to an infinite diversity of personal quirks by showing that it isn't, with synchronized clips of confessional videos where the exact same words are spoken by people of all types. Whether these subjects have been laid off, or are taking medications, or are trying to assert that they are (or are not) gay, they are all the same, regardless of whether they earnestly think they are not. Seen together, the two videos give us divergence and commonality placed hand in hand.