NEW YORK — LIZZIE FITCH / RYAN TRECARTIN AT ANDREA ROSEN GALLERY THROUGH APRIL 20TH, 2016

April 12th, 2016

Lizzie Fitch/Ryan Trecartin, (Installation View), all images © Lizzie Fitch/Ryan Trecartin, Courtesy Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, Photos: Pierre Le Hor

For their first exhibition at Andrea Rosen Gallery following the announcement of their representation by the New York dealer, Lizzie Fitch and Ryan Trecartin have delivered an ambitious debut, translating typical gallery experiences into a staggering, surreal encounter with cultural formats and blurred informational structures. Puzzling for those familiar with the gallery’s original architecture, the artists have realized a maze-like structure, composed of four conjoined chambers that usher visitors through a range of senses and perceptual exercises. Absorbingly eerie in their arcane interiors and radiant colors, each room installation compliments an equally disorienting video on view. Balanced between a corporate office room and suburban movie theater, one room suggests a considerably more traditional viewing experience, while another one asks viewers to perch on bar stools alongside faux rocks.
While the films often scrap narrative coherence, the viewing experience itself feels particularly focused around driving the content of each film forward. Ever-shifting landscapes and overtly camp acting counter the changing physical contents of each viewing space, implementing vague auto-biographical references dispersed throughout each video, while also blending in references to
teen slasher flicks, high school romantic-comedies, and the like, although loyalty to one genre or plotline rarely seems to limit the duo's linguistic scope and formal inventions in narrative, character and setting.

Lizzie Fitch/Ryan Trecartin, (Installation View)

Since their graduation from Rhode Island School of Design in the early 2000s, Fitch and Trecartin have continued one of the most original and consistently strong collaborations in the contemporary art scene, while each maintains uniformly intriguing solo careers. The strength and reception for their collaborations, however, has been particularly enthusiastic, proven by their participations in some of the leading global venues including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, and the 55th Venice Biennale.

The exhibition closes April 16th.

Lizzie Fitch and Ryan Trecartin is on view at Andrea Rosen Gallery through April 20, 2016.

— O.C. Yerebakan