This Week’s Must See Events: Suggested Double Dates

by PADDY JOHNSON AND MICHAEL ANTHONY FARLEY on DECEMBER 14, 2015

Sondra Perry, screening and artist talk

Sondra Perry’s been a favorite around here, ever since Paddy Johnson curated her work in the Columbia MFA exhibition last spring. Perry uses consumer grade video and computer-based media software to poignantly confront issues of race and gender in America. Her work is so thoughtful and smart, we can’t wait to hear what she has to say about it. (Johnson’s review of Perry’s Lineage for a Multiple-Monitor Workstation here.)

For what it’s worth, it looks like her star is rising: her work is currently on view at the Greater New York show, she’s got the talk she’s doing tonight at Electronic Arts Intermix and tomorrow she’ll open a show at Recess. Tonight, she’ll talk about her new work including the ambitious work-in-progress, “My Twilight Zone Thing”, currently on view at Recess. Clearly, there will be a lot to discuss.

Sondra Perry: My Twilight Zone Thing

This show opened November 10, but the closing event is probably more significant, since Perry spent the bulk to the exhibition period producing the work now on view. Basically, she transformed the gallery into a film set for the duration of the exhibition, and invited 20 participants of color to refilm the narrated introductions of all 156 episodes of “The Twilight Zone”. Perry then collected the footage and projected it for this five channel installation. Why did she do this? Perry believes that the original show “dismantles whiteness through the lens of science fiction by scrambling assumptions around the characters’ bodies”. She sees this as potentially liberating because it gives audiences new ways to view the construction of identity. Thus, the work.

Anyway, the show sounds great. Don’t miss her talk Wednesday or the closing Thursday.