

**T**horeau was a wise man. Among his many bits of advice is this one: *Go not to the object, let it come to you.* He insisted on the wildness of matter—on allowing the senses to wander so that things appear when we don't look for them.

By placing faith in the vitality of objects, we can expect objects to *act*, not to just idly sit by. The political theorist Jane Bennett calls this *thing power*—the way objects engage in vibrant assemblages with other objects. Many are quick to talk about *manpower*, but stem cells, fish oils, metal, electricity, and trash make just as much of a difference.

There is a curious animism to the world when one considers that every body effects and is effected by every other body. Binaries like human and non-human, matter and life—and even subject and object—become far less meaningful when agency is figured amongst a heterogeneous confederation of actors.

On the stage that is a Haim Steinbach shelf, for example, sneakers, lamps, and teddy bears aren't there to represent the world, but to have actual effects on the world and on each other. They are there to perform.

*With the Tip of a Hat* is an evening of short videos by artists who are curious about the lives of objects. In these works, light-bulbs, eyeglasses, plastic toys, refrigerators, mechanical arms, Oreo cookies, radios, screen savers, leather chairs, and vegetables all have things to do and places to go.

Stuart Sherman and Alex Hubbard's everyday objects become spectacles; condiment bottles and handbags dance with Phyllis Baldino's carefully manicured hands; and string, plastic bags, and packing tape succumb to the gravitational pull of Trisha Baga's bedroom. Technology's image/object machines play the lead roles in videos by Michael-Bell Smith, Mark Leckey, and Hannah Sawtell. And B. Wurtz tries to talk about the importance of humans, but his objects keep getting in the way.

When all is said and done, one thing is clear: these are not performances with objects, but the display and presentation of their performative dimension.

*With the Tip of a Hat*, with videos by Trisha Baga, Phyllis Baldino, Michael Bell-Smith, Alex Hubbard, Mark Leckey, Hannah Sawtell, Stuart Sherman, and B. Wurtz, takes place on November 9th, 2012.