

Rose Kallal

'Start Begin Feel Again'

*Participant Inc.
253 East Houston Street,
Lower East Side
Through July 22*

For those who would become seers — and who doesn't want that? — Arthur Rimbaud recommended “a long, prodigious and

rational disordering of all the senses.” One way to sample a derangement of ordinary consciousness would be to subject yourself to Rose Kallal's “Start Begin Feel Again,” a four-channel sound and moving image installation. In the dark gallery eerie electronic music accompanies a constantly changing collage of overlapping video projections on one big wall. There are linear geometric patterns of glowing lines; a large, white spherical object opened like a giant clam to reveal violently turbulent, milky liquid inside; and brief segments of a spoken word performance by the artist and curator Mark Beasley. Most of what he says is unintelligible, but some phrases are clear, like, “One day you're going to wake up,” which suggests that some kind of mystical illumination may be in store for the viewer who surrenders to this hypnotic display.

For live presentations Ms. Kallal uses her preferred medium, 16-millimeter film. That is important to know because her works relate to and in many ways resemble those of mid-20th-century experimental filmmakers like Jordan Belson and Bruce Conner. Ms. Kallal's work is animated by nostalgia for a time when the expansion of consciousness by pre-digital cinematic means promised truly revolutionary possibilities. She revisits the past to modify the present and chart a new future.

KEN JOHNSON