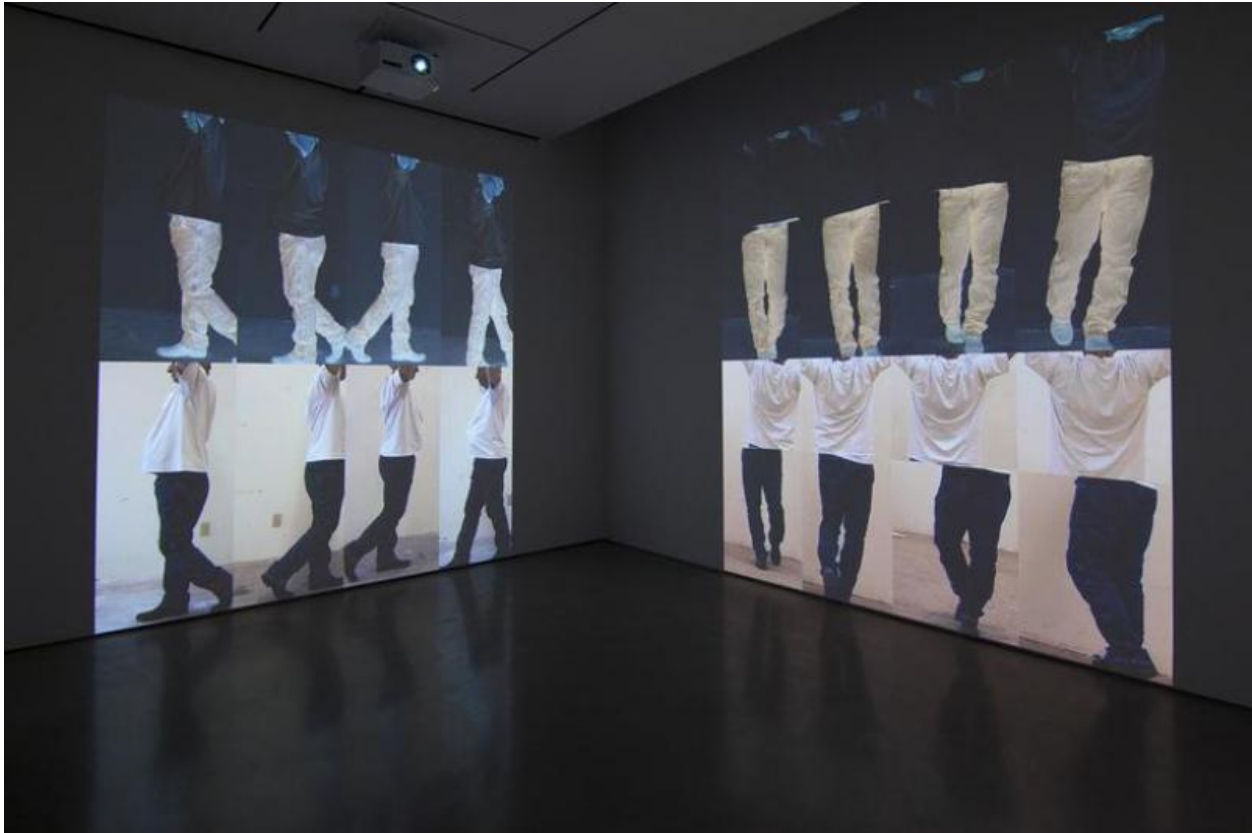


SPERONE WESTWATER
257 Bowery New York 10002
T + 1 212 999 7337 F + 1 212 999 7338
www.speronewestwater.com

Ebony, David. "David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for October." *news.artnet.com (Artnet News)*, 5 October 2016.

artnet®



Bruce Nauman, *Contrapposto Studies iii + iv*, 2015/2016. Courtesy Sperone Westwater New York.

1. Bruce Nauman at Sperone Westwater, through October 29.

How is it that Bruce Nauman, sequestered as he is most of the time in his New Mexico studio, manages to emerge now and again like a grand wizard to address the art world of the moment with a meaningful gesture that points the way to the future? In his latest presentation, "Contrapposto Studies i through vii," he does exactly that. The show of seven recent video installations, plus a photo work and a maquette, constitutes an extraordinary art-world event. The overall premise is simple enough—a video self-portrait of the artist moving back and forth in variations of the contrapposto poses of an artist's model. With ambient studio sounds and repetitive imagery, the installations are generally hypnotic and soothing, and the works are successful as a purely sensorial experience. There is a hopeful emphasis here on the concepts of balance, stability, and perseverance. Eventually, one becomes aware of the tremendous historical depth and conceptual breadth of Nauman's endeavor.

On one level, the new works are autobiographical. The basic concept evolved from Nauman's 1968 work *Walk with Contrapposto*, focused on his exaggerated repetitive movements down a long narrow corridor. Wearing dark trousers and a baggy white t-shirt in *Contrapposto Studies i and ii*, Nauman refers to the classical figure, although by showing his age (74) and a bit of a paunch he deliberately thwarts any notion of the classical ideal. Appearing in alternately positive and negative images, the figure becomes

SPERONE WESTWATER
257 Bowery New York 10002
T + 1 212 999 7337 F + 1 212 999 7338
www.speronewestwater.com

increasingly fractured and fragmented in later works in the series, on view in the upper level galleries. Rather jarring works, *Contrapposto Studies vi and vii* are nearly totally abstract projections. With video's temporal, four-dimensional attributes, Nauman conjures a two-dimensional quasi-Cubist space. One thinks especially of Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase*. It is not a coincidence, then, that Nauman has created for the Philadelphia Museum of Art, home of Duchamp's 1912 masterpiece, a companion and concurrent exhibition, "Contrapposto Studies I through VII," on view in Philadelphia through January 8, 2017.