Anthony Discenza Presents A Novel: an Exhibition by Anthony Discenza

February 27–April 16, 2016

Join us for an opening reception
on Saturday, February 27
from 3—5 pm

San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery is pleased to announce *Anthony Discenza Presents A Novel: an Exhibition by Anthony Discenza*. For this exhibition, on view February 27– April 16, 2016, Anthony Discenza explores the history of an unrealized exhibition by Bay Area artist Anthony Discenza. Tentatively entitled *A Novel*, this project was to have taken place in late winter of 2016, but was ultimately abandoned. By working closely with the artist's own notes, as well as critical material prepared by writers and curators familiar with his output, Discenza has conceived the current exhibition as an interpretive reimagining of how *A Novel* might have unfolded, as well as a consideration of Discenza's creative practice during one of the artist's more difficult periods. Catharine Clark Gallery will host an opening reception for the exhibition on Saturday, February 27, from 3–5 pm.

A Novel was to have been an ambitious undertaking for Discenza, one intended to reorient his practice into more speculative channels. Taking Lane Hobbs' infamous art-world satire *The Disappointments* as his point of departure, Discenza had envisioned the exhibition as an exercise in fragmentation, in which a series of seemingly disparate works would serve to implicate some larger, withheld storyline that required interpretive assembly on the part of the viewers. Riffing off several motifs from Hobbs' book, Discenza planned to use *The Disappointments* as a kind of invisible scaffolding that would provide associative connections—or possibly dissonances—with the physical works in the exhibition. Unfortunately (and perhaps ironically) this plan was never realized.

For the current exhibition, Anthony Discenza, a longtime confidant of the artist (as well as a noted visual artist himself), explores various aspects of his friend's practice, using the original plans for *A Novel* as a staging ground for this investigation. The show combines critical writing on Discenza's work, the artist's own notes, and mockups of various projects that Discenza had planned for inclusion in *A Novel* to create a layered inquiry into the elusive and sometimes unreliable interior regions of artistic production. In a sense, *Anthony Discenza Presents A Novel: an Exhibition by Anthony Discenza* consists of two separate exhibitions, each superimposed upon and entwined within the other: an exhibition that never existed, and a second which considers the unrealized possibilities of the former.

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Opening reception: Saturday, February 27, 3–5 pm; exhibition walk-through at 2:30 pm.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Media inquiries contact Allison Stockman: marketing@cclarkgallery.com

Anthony Discenza is an interdisciplinary artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Employing a range of media, including video projection, text, street signage, and computer generated audio, his work explores our interactions with the productions of mass media and the narratives it generates, as well as the relationship between textual and visual systems of representation. In addition to his solo work, since 1994 Discenza has been one-half of the collaborative entity HalfLifers, along with longtime friend and fellow artist Torsten Z. Burns. Discenza's solo and collaborative work has been presented at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, Ballroom Marfa, Objectif Exhibitions, Gallery 400, The Getty Center, The Pacific Film Archive, The Australian Center for the Moving Image, and The Whitney Biennial. His work has garnered critical attention in Artforum, Artweek, and ArtReview, among other publications, and is included in the permanent distribution catalog of the Video Databank of Chicago. Discenza received a BA from Wesleyan University and an MFA from the California College of Art.