

TANYA LEIGHTON

PRESS RELEASE

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SEPTEMBER SHOW

AYREEN ANASTAS, ALEJANDRO CESARCO, JEREMY DELLER, RENE GABRI, AURÉLIEN GAMBONI, LUCAS OSPINA, DAN REES, JOHN SMITH, AND OSCAR TUAZON

6 September – 18 October, 2008

PREVIEW 5 September, 6 to 9 pm, 2008

AFTERPARTY with special guest DJs Sons of the Stage (Rory Crichton and Jeremy Deller), at Kumpelnest 3000, Lützowstrasse 23, 10785 Berlin, 10 pm

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September Show presents new, recent, and historical work by a range of contributing and represented artists across a variety of media – from sculpture to installation, painting and drawing, photography to film.

Ayreen Anastas (b. Bethlehem, Palestine) and Rene Gabri (b. Tehran, Iran) work within the folds of cultural practice, social thought and politics. The Meaning of Everything (2008) is the first manifestation of a long-term creative collaboration, which takes its title from a book of the same name. The first edition of the book is presented here, life-size unbound as a series of notes, which mark a process of thought about the relations between the work of art and what is referred to as ‘a life’. The book is also a script which can open up to events, acts, performances, videos, texts, statements or flights. Together Anastas and Gabri run l6Beaver in New York, a space initiated in 1999 to provide an ongoing platform for the presentation, production, and discussion of a variety of artistic and political projects.

Alejandro Cesarco (b. Montevideo, Uruguay, 1975) challenges viewers to seek new meaning behind the text and images of his evocative and diverse works, which consist of photographs, videos, books, and sculptures. September Show includes both an optimistic wall painting entitled Here Comes The Sun (2004), and a new colour pencil drawing of equally unassuming character from an ongoing series titled When I am Happy Drawings (2008). These convey Cesarco’s ‘stubborn belief that someday things will change and happiness will occur.’ Cesarco also works as a curator and editor at New York’s Art Resources

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Internationally renowned artist and recipient of the 2004 Turner Prize, Jeremy Deller (b. London, 1966) works in collaboration with participants from various communities and social groups/clubs. On view here is a series of photographs from his recent project at skulptur projekte münster 07, where he focused on the history of allotment gardens and the stories told by their owners.

Aurélien Gamboni (b. Lausanne, Switzerland, 1979), who just completed a two-year curatorship at Forde art space in Geneva, makes drawings, sculptures, and installations that are often conceived as narrative structures. First realized within the context of a fanzine, as a series of comic strips assuming the shape of a Mondrian painting, Mon éducation (The Ultimate Comix) (2006) was then transposed as drawings onto twenty-three wooden panels. Re-contextualized and re-configured in this manner, the concept and the story are further emptied of meaning and opened-up to reinterpretation. Referencing figures such as Johann Heinrich Fussli (Henry Fuseli), Buzz Aldrin, and Bas Jan Ader, The Usual Suspects (You Are History) (2008), physically interconnects different elements within a logic of its own, and illustrates through an 'eclipse of representation' how personal and collective histories can put one or the other into perspective.

Colombian artist Lucas Ospina (b. Bogotá, 1971), well known for his work under the guise of Pedro Manrique Figueroa – the fictional precursor of collage in Colombia – shows a recent series of drawings. With allegorical wit, Ospina depicts trite lovers in various acts of awkward love-games that are seemingly playful yet equally complicated. Inspired by his personal relationships, these perverse gestures poke fun at the strange interpolations of binary relations while offering a poetic and earnest meditation on modern romance. Ospina is a professor of Visual Arts at the University of Los Andes, Bogotá, and co-founding-editor of Valdez magazine (recently included in documenta 12).

Berlin/Frankfurt-based artist Dan Rees (b. Swansea, UK, 1982) playfully explores art history, narrative and repetition. As recently described by Andrew Hunt (Frieze, Jan-Feb 2008), his work 'suggests a desire to disrupt an existing dialogue with the mythical Golden Age of Conceptual art, together with the reproduction of ideas across generations, [his work is] interesting because, essentially, he takes clever endgames and reinvests them with a more gentle form of mystery and humour.' My Family and Other Animals (2007) on exhibition, takes inspiration from Gerard Durrell's classic novel from 1935-39 – an autobiographical work on his family and gentle descriptions of

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animals on the island of Corfu. A carousel of slides depicts seventy-four animals photographed from the local zoo, interspersed with images of six members of Rees's family: 'A bear, a zebra, a giraffe, my gran, a donkey, a monkey ... .'

Rarely seen within the gallery context, one of England's finest avant-garde filmmakers, John Smith (b. London, 1952), presents his classic early film The Girl Chewing Gum (1976). An authoritative voiceover pre-emptes the events occurring in the image, seeming to instruct the people, cars and moving objects within the screen, but also the actual camera movements operated on the street in view. The film shows how representation is always necessarily distorted, and further reveals the ideological power of any audiovisual construction – the deep politics of a voiceover.

Paris-based, American artist Oscar Tuazon (b. 1975, Seattle), who often collaborates with his brother, Eli Hansen, is notable for his commitment to an art that speaks to sustainable economies, personal liberties, and D.I.Y. cultures – its a kind of 'intangible architecture, not a design practice but a lifestyle that shapes the space around it'. Tuazon has contributed two new works for this show – a floor piece comprised of two sheets of wood, filled with natural and synthetic material, and a newspaper-and-concrete sculptural 'painting'. Tuazon is the co-editor with Clementine Deliss of Metronomo no. 10, and co-director of Castillo/Corrales gallery in Paris.

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Open Wednesday – Saturday 12 – 6pm and by appointment.

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