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THE ARMORY SHOW NEW YORK
27 – 30 March 2008
Opening Wednesday 26 March

Booth 433
PIER 94 - NYC

Erna Hecey Gallery is pleased to announce its first participation in the Armory Show, after having participated in numerous art fairs, including Art Basel, Fiac Paris, Art Brussels, ARCO Madrid, Artforum Berlin and ShContemporary Shanghai. Founded in Luxembourg in 1996, the gallery moved in 2005 to a large industrial space in Brussels.

At the Armory Show, Erna Hecey presents works by **Lili Dujourie, Peter Friedl, and Nedko Solakov**, who were all featured in Documenta 12, **Jef Geys**, who showed at Documenta 11, and **Olaf Nicolai, Pierre Bismuth, Peter Downsbrough, Jana Sterbak, Rainer Oldendorf, John Murphy** and **Suzanne Lafont**, all artists working with the gallery for several years. The selection of artworks combines historically important works from the 70's with new pieces, including works by upcoming French artist **Olivier Millagou**.

Four of our artists are showing in New York at the same time as The Armory Show 2008. **Jef Geys** is participating in the exhibition *Archive Fever* at the International Center for Photography, New York. **Lili Dujourie** is currently showing in the *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, which debuted at MOCA, Los Angeles and is now on view at P.S.1, New York. **Olaf Nicolai's** installation "Considering a multiplicity of appearances in light of a particular aspect of relevance. Or: Can art be concrete?," originally shown at Erna Hecey Gallery in 2007, is on display at Carolina Nitsch, New York. The Ronald Feldman Gallery presents at their booth a special solo show of **Eleanor Antin**, whose work has recently been represented in Europe by Erna Hecey Gallery.

Jef Geys is one of Belgium's foremost artists, known for his critical approach to institutions and talent for evading easy classification. Since appearing on the art scene in the 60's, Geys has conceived his entire oeuvre as an evolving project combining a conceptual attitude, educational activity and formal experimentation. His work deals with themes related to social, political, and economic fields, and is marked by its critical intelligence.

Women's Questions? (1965 - present) began as a series of socio-political questions hanging on the wall in Geys' classroom where in the 1960's he was teaching art at a local vocational school for girls. From a contemporary perspective, the work highlights the feminist movement's successes and failures over the past forty years. The original Flemish has been translated into numerous languages, including English, German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew, French, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Bulgarian and Arabic.

Jef Geys has exhibited in many important institutions around the world, including the IAC Lyon Villeurbanne (2007); Pori Art Museum, Pori, Finland (2005); Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (2004); Documenta 11 (2002); Le Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels (1992); and São Paulo Biennial (1991). He recently participated in the "Deep Comedy" show at Marfa, 2007, curated by Dan Graham with Sylvia Chivaratanond, and was the subject of a solo show at Orchard Gallery, New York (2007).

Peter Friedl, Berlin based artist, highlights in his work political awareness, autobiography, and the reinvention of genres left over from the history of modernism.

The gallery shows his neon piece *Corrupting the Absolute* (2002), and his recent video *Liberty City* (2007), an homage to the community of Liberty City in Miami. In this short eyewitness video, based on the Arthur McDuffie incident in 1979, Friedl revises the racist dramaturgy of the historical event in a re-enactment with reversed roles.

Peter Friedl's work has been exhibited worldwide, including Documenta 10 (1997) and Documenta 12 (2007), the 48th Venice Biennale (1999), and the 2nd International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Seville (2006). In 2006, the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) produced a retrospective exhibition that traveled to Miami Art Central/Miami Art Museum and Musée d'art contemporain (MAC) in Marseille in 2007. A new project by Peter Friedl is presented at Kunsthalle Basel in January 2008.

He was recently nominated by the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam for the Vincent Award 2008.

GALERIE ERNA HECEY

Lili Dujourie is a highly esteemed Belgian artist. For over three decades she has charted an independent path in a variety of media, including sculpture, video, photography, and slide projection. Her work is known for its depth and poetic beauty.

The gallery is showing one of her now rarely seen large-scale paper collages from the 70's (from an original production of four), one of which was on display at Documenta 12. We are also showing clay sculptures from her *Memories of Hands* series, created last year.

Dujourie recently participated in the group show "Ellipsis" with Chantal Akerman and Francesca Woodman, curated by Lynne Cooke, which debuted at the Tamayo Museum, Mexico City in October 2007, and is traveling to the Dundee Institute, Glasgow. This past summer she was featured at Documenta 12.

Olaf Nicolai, Berlin based artist, combines in his work current questions in politics and contemporary culture with a wide-ranging interest in the natural sciences, architecture, aesthetics, iconography, and history. Nicolai's creations are well known for both their conceptual complexity and striking physical beauty.

One of Nicolai's large scale offset prints is shown, from a series of 3 Italian revolutionary prints which together spell out the phrase "...ma l'amore mio non muore" (But my love will never die). The colorful printing method creates an atmosphere of glamour and psychedelic fun that is associated with political radicalism, specifically Maoism. Nicolai's reproductions play with and question the relation between pure form and technique and content in political art.

The title of *Ce qui coupe une ligne, c'est le point* (What cuts a line is a point), comes from the famous French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, who was fascinated with topological figures like the Möbius strip and the torus, and used the mathematical theory of knots in order to formalize the twists and turns of the unconscious. Nicolai offers a neon 'knot' sculpture based on Lacan's topological diagrams from the seventies, following the particular iconography of French psychoanalysis.

The work of Olaf Nicolai has been exhibited in many galleries, art centers and museums around the world. He participated in the 51st Venice Biennial (2005), the 1st Biennial of Contemporary Art of Sevilla BIACS (2004), and Documenta 10 (1997).

His film « Rodakis » was presented at the 2008 Berlinale.

Peter Downsbrough's work as a visual artist, photographer and film artist has had a major impact on the perception of art. A decade after his first exhibition in New York (1962) the artist gained international recognition, and has been exhibiting regularly in Europe since then. He left New York in 1989 and since then he lives in Europe.

The varied work of the artist—ranging from sculpture and books to photography, video, and film—maintains a complex relationship with architecture and typography, while also drawing on the achievements of the early avant-garde (Bauhaus, De Stijl) and Minimal Art. In terms of form, the work of Downsbrough is highly rigorous and exhibits a powerful geometric sense, restricting itself primarily to the use of line, plane, negative space (cutting away), and delimitation. In addition to his spatial manipulations, the artist also has a keen interest in place, as is evidenced in his cartographical works and city photographs.

Downsbrough shows a wall piece composed of two lines and the word "Focus," on a space of approximately 3 x 4m.

Downsbrough's video work has recently been shown at the Kunsthalle Bern (2008) the Reina Sofia Museum Madrid (2007), and argos Brussels (2006). His most recent major solo exhibitions include SMAK, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent (2007) and FRAC Bourgogne (2004).

Pierre Bismuth is one of France's foremost artists. Known for his intelligent dismantling of cultural products and wry wit, Bismuth's work constitutes a creative intervention into familiar codes, habits and objects. He won the Oscar in 2005 for Best Original Screenplay with Michel Gondry and Charlie Kaufman for *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

Two works by Bismuth will be on display: *Pop Culture* (2006), a sheet of music from a pop song with the lyrics erased, and *Collage with Marcel* (2003), a doctored version of the famous photograph of Marcel Duchamp playing chess with a naked woman, in which the woman has been clothed with a white paper cut-out dress.

Bismuth's most recent exhibitions include a solo show at Jan Mot Brussels (2007), three solo shows in New York at the Mary Boone Gallery and Team Gallery (2007), and a retrospective at the Villa Arson, Nice (2006).

Nedko Solakov, a storyteller known for his multifaceted installations, is one of the foremost contemporary artists. He creates worlds where different forms of reality mix with each other and traditional systems of political and aesthetic representation break down. Born in Sofia (Bulgaria) in 1957, he lived through the collapse of the Communist system. He decided to continue to work in his native land: "I need to live here, the situation here sustains my sense of the absurd, my irony and my humor." His work draws on different media, from painting, photography, drawing and video to the written word.

The gallery shows *A Proposal for a Piece Commemorating Theodor W. Adorno (non-realized)* (2002), a series of drawings and texts originally commissioned by city of Frankfurt for a memorial to Adorno, but never realized.

Solakov has exhibited extensively internationally, including many museum solo exhibitions. He participated in biennials in Istanbul (1992, 1995, 2005), Venice (1993, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2007); São Paulo (1994); Manifesta 1 (1996); Gwangju (1997, 2002) and Documenta 12 (2007).

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GALERIE ERNA HECEY

Jana Sterbak, a major Canadian artist born in Prague, is well known for her performance work in the 70's and 80's, dealing primarily with issues of power and sexuality. She works in different media, including sculptures, installations, photography, video, and performance.

The gallery shows the photograph *Distraction* (2001), based on a performance piece of the same name from 1995.

Sterbak represented Canada in 2003 at the Venice Biennial. She has had many solo exhibitions worldwide, including Carré d'Art, Nîmes, France (2006); Haus der Kunst, München (2002); and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (1998).

Rainer Oldendorf, a German artist based in Paris and Lörrach (Germany), works in a number of media, including film, slideshow, photography, and sculpture.

He shows a selection of photographs linked with his major cinema work *Marco 1-12*, an ongoing film named after the main actor, filmed in Lörrach, Barcelona, Kyoto and Rio.

His recent solo shows include CAC Brétigny, Centre d'art contemporain, Brétigny, France (2007), Erna Hecey Gallery (2006), and Fundacio Antoni Tapies, Barcelona (2000).

Parts of *Marco* were recently screened at the Pompidou Center, Paris, in 2008.

John Murphy, a major British artist, is known for his conceptually intricate and highly referential works, moving between the realms of language, music and image.

The gallery is showing the paintings *The Residue of Vision (Telescopium)* (1992-1996) and *Under the Scurts... (Scutum)* (1996).

His most recent solo exhibitions include "...the stench of shit...", Erna Hecey Gallery, Brussels (2006-2007), "Between the Acts", Lisson Gallery, London (2006), "Up or Down it's All the Same: in Gent or Venice", Het Kabinet, Gent (2005), "And Things Throw Light on Things", Ikon Gallery Barber Institute, Birmingham (2004-2005), "Of Voyages", Erna Hecey Gallery, Luxembourg (2003), and "The Way Up and the Way Down", Southampton City Art Gallery and Museum, Southampton (1999).

Suzanne Lafont, is a highly esteemed French artist, well known for her stylized images and theatrical narrative scenes. She turned to visual art after her literary and philosophical studies, focusing her attention on how images result from a process of cultural elaboration and construction. Her more recent work develops the fictional aspect of images, exploring the ludic potential of illusion.

Since the 1980s, Lafont has participated in numerous exhibitions worldwide, including Documenta X (1997).

She will participate at the upcoming exhibition "Street & Studio: An Urban History of Photography" at Tate Modern (2008).

Olivier Millagou, a French post-Pop artist, works with motifs from surf and motorbike culture, exploring the dichotomy between paradise lost and paradise found.

Millagou presents a series of drawings, postcards in offset print and postcards painted in white, where only the geography changes: a collection of places that are all dreamed of as paradise, ideal locales that exist only in the mind.

In 2002, he had a solo show at the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Marseille. In 2005, he took part in the group show at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris. Since then Millagou has exhibited internationally, in 2006 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, and at Palazzo delle Arti Napoli, among others.

WORKS BY

**ELEANOR ANTIN - JOHN M. ARMLEDER - PIERRE BISMUTH - PETER DOWNSBROUGH - LILI DUJOURIE - PETER FRIEDL
JEF GEYS - MARIE-ANGE GUILLEMINOT - SUZANNE LAFONT - GABRIEL LESTER - OLIVIER MILLAGOU - JOHN MURPHY
IVAN MOUDOV - OLAF NICOLAI - RAINER OLDENDORF - ELS OPSOMER - NEDKO SOLAKOV - KLAUS SCHERÜBEL
JANA STERBAK - BEAT STREULI - BERT THEIS - URI TZAIG - VERA WEISGERBER - LAWRENCE WEINER**

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