

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Museum of Modern Art affiliate
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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL JOAQUIN GREY

June 28 through September 14, 2009.

Opening Day Celebration: June 28, 2009, 12-6 PM.

(Long Island City, NY — June 26, 2009) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents a solo presentation by Michael Joaquin Grey, an artist whose work has bridged the boundaries between art, science, media, and the imagination for the last twenty years. His interdisciplinary practice revolves around the development and origins of life and language, as well as morphology. The self organizing principles of living and nonliving things, from muscle cells up to cultural phenomena, are among the diverse concerns that Grey's work examines. Featuring wall vinyl, computational videos, sculptures, and prints, the exhibition investigates critical moments in natural phenomena and culture with a nearly scientific eye, all the while testing the very limits and boundaries of the tools required in such study.

On view in P.S.1's first floor Drawing Gallery are works that thematically demonstrate the artist's interest in the development of language, living things, and strategic organic systems. Many works relate to the principles of growth and transformation, as seen in *Object as preposition* (1988-2007) which visualizes how throughout art history the object became part of a performative process in relational aesthetics. Body signals are a recurrent theme; the human heartbeat is used in *Perpetual ZOOZ* (2005-09), as well as the artist's own biological material in *Artificial Muscle* (1983-2001), where a sample of Grey's muscle cells is used to create a contracting mass in a test tube.

The computational cinematic projection *Perpetual ZOOZ* is the primary work in the exhibition, which incorporates two versions of *The Wizard of Oz*. One version of the movie plays in time with his mother's heartbeat and the other plays in reverse, in accordance with Grey's heart. The projection is designed in a way that both versions of the movie are presented in a sculptural form, like two sides of a spinning coin.

Michael Joaquin Grey (b. Los Angeles, CA, 1961) lives and works in San Francisco and New York. He has had solo shows at Fringe Exhibitions, Los Angeles (2007), bitforms gallery, New York (2006), Kunsthalle Loppem, Belgium (1995), Lisson Gallery, London (1994), Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York (1991, 1993 and 1994) and has been included in group exhibitions such as *Illiterature*, Arena 1 Gallery, Santa Monica (2009), *Beneath the Underdog*, Gagosian Gallery, New York (2007), CUT/FILM Film as Found Object in Contemporary Video, MOCA, North Miami (2004), Public Offerings, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2001), *1993 Biennial Exhibition*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1993)

Michael Joaquin Grey is organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator, Department of Media and Performance Art, The Museum of Modern Art and Chief Curatorial Advisor, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center.

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Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and the P.S.1 Annual Fund, supported by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, David Teiger, Union Beer Distributors, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Galerie Lelong, E. William Judson, Jane K. Lombard, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., Barbara Gladstone, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, The Herman Liebmann Foundation, Bobby Kopp + Co. Productions, and other donors.

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Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:

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