



SI

FEB 18 – APR 4 2009

RENATE LORENZ / PAULINE BOUDRY N.O. BODY

A GROUP SHOW CURATED BY JOHN MILLER

BARBARA BLOOM, SOPHIE CALLE, TRISHA DONNELLY, SAM DURANT, MARIA
EICHHORN, SYLVIE FLEURY, FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES, DAN GRAHAM,
RENÉE GREEN, FABRICE GYGI, JAMIE ISENSTEIN, MIKE KELLEY, LOUISE LAWLER,
SAM LEWITT, ALLEN MCCOLLUM, JEFFREY CHARLES HENRY PEACOCK,
MAI-THU PERRET, WALTER ROBINSON, AURA ROSENBERG, JIM SHAW, GREG
PARMA SMITH, MIKE SMITH, JOHN WATERS, AND LAWRENCE WEINER

TUESDAY, FEB 17 2009, 6 – 8PM

INVITATION
OPENING RECEPTION

SWISS INSTITUTE / CONTEMPORARY ART
495 BROADWAY / 3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK / NY 10012
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REGIFT
On invitation of the Swiss Institute, New York artist John Miller created REGIFT, a group show that includes 24 artists, all whom contribute work on the subject of gift exchange.

The exchange of gifts, although an age-old practice, presents something of an economic anomaly. One reason may be that gift exchange is not completely rational, at least according to a logic of total calculability. Like the gift, the artwork fits only awkwardly within this framework. Gift giving often involves unspoken obligations, exacted in terms that are mutually understood but nonetheless not completely accountable: emotional, social, hierarchical and so on. Here, the incalculability of the artwork dovetails with that of the gift.

RENATE LORENZ / PAULINE BOUDRY

N.O. BODY

Berlin-based Swiss artists Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz present a work of intriguing beauty as their US debut. N.O. Body consists of two parts: 47 photographs refer to the comprehensive archive of the German sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld. A video projection reenacts the photograph of the “bearded lady” Annie Jones (1865- 1902). This photograph crosses through two different contexts. It has traveled from the Barnum Circus freak show, where Jones was presented as a “wonder” (for a fee), to the medical theater, where sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld showed her in the book “Geschlechtskunde, Bilderteil” as a potential “patient.” What happens when an “object of knowledge” assumes the position of “producer of knowledge”, and starts to laugh? The result opens up the history of knowledge production once again. The image of an empty auditorium assigns a position to the potential audience: N.O.bodies.

SI programming is supported, in part, by Pro Helvetia – the Swiss Arts Council and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

SWISS ARTS COUNCIL
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DIRECTIONS: BROADWAY BETWEEN
BROOME AND SPRING STREETS
SUBWAY: N/R TO PRINCE STREET,
6 TO SPRING STREET

GALLERY OPENING HOURS:
TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
11 AM – 6 PM
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
FREE ENTRY