

For Immediate Release

PHILIPPE DECRAUZAT / 'PLATE 28'

May 30 - July 15 2006

Lounge: DADA Sound Archive

opening reception: Tuesday, May 30, 6 - 8 pm

The SWISS INSTITUTE - CONTEMPORARY ART (S I) is pleased to announce the first U.S. solo show of Philippe Decrauzat, 'Plate 28'. One of Switzerland's most promising and respected young artists, Decrauzat will come to New York this spring to create a suite of new works, installed throughout the S I's main space. Decrauzat's interests lie in investigating the status that images play in cultural practice, continuing to address the questions raised by pop and conceptualism in destabilizing the practice of image making. Taking stake in op-art strategies, Decrauzat literally shakes up the viewer's experience through dense patterning and layering of effects. Manipulating diverse references from Russian constructivism to sci-fi to 1970s post-punk music, Decrauzat's influences form a subtle network of visual and spatial motifs.

For his solo exhibition, Decrauzat will transform the entire gallery space with a large-scale wall painting that will wrap around and capture the viewer within the gallery using grid patterns from Edward Muybridge's early photographic experiments in mapping movement. In the center of this chaotic and darkly gorgeous wall painting will sit a sculpture based on a Russian constructivist design for a 3-dimensional poster board: a structure on which to show propaganda. Reversing the flattening peculiarities of this design - in which the designer did not imply perspective on the depicted posters shown posted on the rendering of the structure - Decrauzat will fabricate the sculpture itself in two-dimensions. A flat image, representing a sculpture, then, is rendered exactly according to its design: flattened and two-dimensional. Through a dark triangular section in the expansive gridded wall, a 16mm projection will flicker with images of sci-fi landscapes. The light emitted, fading from bright to dark, will follow from a series of modulated lines from a 1967 graph charting the first recording of a pulsar. The image of this graph is one recognizable by art and music enthusiasts, as a portion of it was used for the band Joy Division's first album cover.

Decrauzat's projects evolve from diverse network of interests and obsessions, with both an intellectual and aesthetic attention to the past hundred years of art making. With an ability to command any media, Decrauzat enables complex installations which buzz with optical and conceptual weight.

Recent exhibitions include, a solo exhibition at Galerie Praz Delavallade, Paris; "Komakino" at MAMCO, Geneva; "General Dynamics" at Centre d'art contemporaine, Delme; and "NOWHERENOW", at Kunsthaus Baselland.