

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIQUID CONCRETE

ERIC HATTAN IN THE MAIN SPACE

ZOE LEONARD IN THE LOUNGE

MICHEL FRANÇOIS IN THE LIBRARY

JANUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 15, 2003

Opening reception: Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 6 – 8 pm

“Every day, I am astonished anew by the straightforward way cats change direction and by how life continues on its way while producing the most vivid images at the same time. On walks through the city, a small video camera is an ideal notebook.” -Eric Hattan

Liquid Concrete features Swiss artist Eric Hattan in the main space, with New York based photographer, Zoe Leonard in the lounge and Belgian artist Michel François in the library. An antidote for the over-saturated eye, Eric Hattan's videos from his work *Beton Liquide* or LIQUID CONCRETE, enable us to take a break from the rush and hurry of our visual world. On eighteen monitors Hattan reveals his camera's spontaneous observances. The placement of the monitors recreates a kind of video-city, and walking around the gallery you catch a glimpse of what is going on in this or that street, but you might miss what is just around the corner. Short, quiet incidents are caught on film and looped by Hattan, very much like the blowing plastic bag of *American Beauty*, but without the dramatization, without the artist's addition of music, melancholy or nostalgia. The works are like video ready-mades, the camera records minor occurrences: a curtain blowing, a basketball thrown through a hoop, water pouring out of a drain pipe, the changing light, cast on a billboard on the side of a building.

The minor occurrence is given a moment's importance, as with Zoe Leonard's photographs, which depict the urban mystery of plastic bags, caught and blowing on the branches of trees. Michel François' computer-based project, *Action/La Plante En Nous* is comprised of a series of short spontaneous actions, or as he calls them, “120 moments of irony and beauty”.

Taking the incidental as subject matter, all three artists' work introduces a new preoccupation at the SI: looking at what happens in the time and space “between”, so that this exhibition is portrayed as a sort of intermission. This theme of intermission or *entr'acte* will recur unexpectedly in the SI's programming this year, challenging the accepted notion of an exhibition having defined beginning and end points. The repetition and incidental beauty of the works in Liquid Concrete will serve as a kind of trailer, introducing the idea that exhibitions do not begin or end, but rather flow and linger.

SEE MORE ON WWW.SWISSINSTITUTE.NET

Gallery Hours: Tues – Sat / 11am – 6pm

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