

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTRA

DATES: MARCH 5 – APRIL 26 2003
WITH: VIRGINIE BARRÉ, OLIVIER BLANCKART, STÉPHANE DAFFLON, WIM DELVOYE,
DANIEL FIRMAN, PETER FISCHLI & DAVID WEISS, SYLVIE FLEURY, GIANNI
MOTTI, BRUNO PEINADO, STÉPHANE SAUTOUR and ROMAN SIGNER
CURATOR: MARC-OLIVIER WAHLER

Is there something "outside" reality?
Is reality like elastic? To what extent can we pull and stretch it, and will it break?
How many extra layers can we graft onto reality before it collapses?
These questions define the core ideas of the EXTRA exhibition.

EXTRA does not attempt to suggest answers to these questions, but rather, it proposes a project of stratifying reality, working with artists who continually question the limits of the real. EXTRA attempts to probe the nature of art today in relation to reality.

No longer is the extraterrestrial portrayed as a hysterical little green man. He now takes human form, slipping from unremarkably normal to ever so slightly suspicious. Gliding on the folds of the real, his next frontier is a territory with no distinct location.

Moving away from the notion of the *interstice*: a common way to define contemporary art, a notion, (not far from the *point sublime* of the surrealists, an *in between*, or an *offshore* platform), that has the benefit of grounding the idea of the indefinable in a domain that is reassuringly definable: a geographic point. In this new realm of gliding over, in and between the surfaces of reality, the world no longer seems like a series of points forming lines. Rather, it is manifested in a series of tangent planes, all at once forming and traversing reality's layers.

Here, with EXTRA, we see how art and artists contribute to the densification of the real: to complicate reality. Taking on diverse forms of reality, art reveals its extreme elasticity. The art of EXTRA does not attempt to develop new worlds or new platforms *outside* of reality. It constitutes a movement, an energy, a constant oscillation which serves to shake up our interpretive system. It is the pump, which dilates and contracts reality.

EXTRA, a book exploring the layers of the real, will accompany the exhibition, with visual essays from over 25 artists, including Olaf Breuning, Gelatin, Christian Jankowski, Ugo Rondinone and Jim Shaw, and texts by Olivier Mosset, Bob Nickas, Marc-Olivier Wahler and a correspondence by physicists David Deutsch and Seth Lloyd. To be released in April 2003.

This exhibition is made possible in part by the **swisspeaks**FESTIVAL, www.swisspeaks.org, and by Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland and Presence Switzerland. Thanks also to the support of Fonds Etant Donnés, SWISS International Airlines, SWISS World Cargo, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Stanley Johnson Stiftung, Transcontainer Transport Inc., and Cliff Diver.

SEE MORE ON <http://www.swissinstitute.net/Exhibitions/current.htm>

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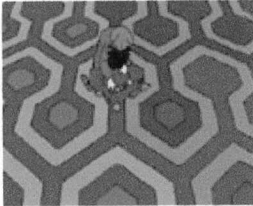


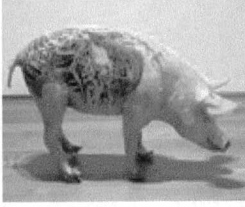

EXTRA**HOW MANY EXTRA LAYERS CAN WE GRAFT ONTO REALITY BEFORE IT COLLAPSES?**

DATES: March 5 - April 26, 2003

ARTISTS: Virginie Barré, Olivier Blanckart, Stéphane Dafflon, Wim Delvoye, Daniel Firman, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Sylvie Fleury, Gianni Motti, Bruno Peinado, Stéphane Sautour, Roman Signer

CURATOR: Marc-Olivier Wahler, Artistic Director, SI

PRESS CONTACT: Gabrielle Giattino, Associate Curator, SI

| ARTIST | TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF WORK | IMAGE |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Virginie Barré | REDRUM, carpet, 2003 |  |
| Olivier Blanckart | REMIX (<i>The Village People</i>), 1997 |  |
| Stéphane Dafflon | PMQ19, wall painting, 2003 |  |
| Wim Delvoye | <i>Boris</i> tattooed taxidermied pig |  |
| Daniel Firman | <i>Color Safe</i> , 2003 |  |