

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 26 2002

**MAIN SPACE: JIM SHAW / THE GOODMAN IMAGE FILE AND STUDY / 2002**

**LOUNGE: MARIA MARSHALL / PUT MEDICATION IN HIS POCKET / 1999**

**LOBBY: ERIK PARKER / MORBID ANGELS / 2002**

**LIBRARY: ALIEN 2 / A PROJECT BY HEIDRUN HOLZFEIND / 2002**

Born in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York in the mid-1800s, O-ism's beliefs included the notion of a female deity, of time going backwards, spiritual transience and a prohibition on figurative art. -J.S.

Jim Shaw's recent work has focused on inventing a new, pseudo-religion, O-ism. Conceived as being founded contemporaneously with Mormonism, Shaw's O-ism centers on an unnamable goddess, referred to only by an O. For the SI, Shaw envisions the study room of an imagined painter, torn between the mythical purity of abstraction and the profanity of the representational image. His modernist paintings are hung in a chapel-like formation of seven. The circular color-field paintings accompany a seven-sided circular complex of file drawers. Filed away in these cabinets is the O-ist's massive image file: an obsessively ordered compendium of decadent, kitch images from the popular press.

Adam O. Goodman's work shows an attempt to wed the mythic iconic essence of late modernism to the demands of his spiritual convictions. His modernist paintings were mostly unrecognized during his lifetime, which left Goodman with no choice but to toil, secretly, in the lower levels of the commercial arts. The files were created to aid his furtive work as an illustrator, executed under the pseudonym Archie Gunn. A fictional historical tableau, *The Goodman Image File and Study* represents the conceptualization of the iconoclastic controversy within this pseudo-religion. Cloaked in American mythology both of its puritanical religions and of the painters of the New York School, this exhibition follows Jim Shaw's inventiveness through another investigation into the world of the American artist.

In the lounge, the SI presents video work by up-and-coming British artist MARIA MARSHALL. Concurrently with her solo show at the Team Gallery in Chelsea, the SI is screening the video work, *Put Medication in his Pocket*.

Influenced by Rorschach drawings, genealogical charts and graffiti, New York-based German painter, ERIK PARKER has made a special project called *Morbid Angels*, for the SI's lobby at 495 Broadway.

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 AT 6.30PM WHEN  
WE WILL BE PLEASED TO PRESENT AN ARTIST TALK BY JIM SHAW.**

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

Press Contact: Gabrielle Giattino, Assistant to the Artistic Director  
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