

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP SHOW

The Feverish Library

September 6th – October 20th, 2012

Opening reception:

Thursday, September 6th, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM



Friedrich Petzel Gallery is pleased to announce “The Feverish Library,” a group exhibition organized in cooperation with Matthew Higgs, opening on Thursday, September 6th, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The exhibition will remain on view until October 20, 2012.

It was the kind of library he had only read about in books.

- Alan Bennett, [The Uncommon Reader](#)

The impious maintain that nonsense is normal in the Library and that the reasonable (and even humble and pure coherence) is an almost miraculous exception. They speak (I know) of the “feverish Library whose chance volumes are constantly in danger of changing into others and affirm, negate and confuse everything like a delirious divinity.” These words, which not only denounce the disorder but exemplify it as well, notoriously prove their authors’ abominable taste and desperate ignorance.

- Jorge Luis Borges, [The Library of Babel](#)

In 1966, John Latham checked out Clement Greenberg’s [Art and Culture: Critical Essays](#) from the library at the Saint Martin’s School of Art, where he was an instructor. One evening at a party he asked students to chew up the book’s pages after which he turned the pulp into a clear liquid. After repeated demands from the library for the book’s long overdue return, Latham presented the liquid in a vial. The book in its altered state was not accepted.

“The Feverish Library” brings together a number of artworks whose premises are predicated on the book as a conceptual, psychological, and cultural form. In some pieces, the actual physicality of the book is addressed. The works collectively constitute a meditation on the page, book jackets, design, and content. Some works are arguably a fond or surreal portrait of pulp, a disconcerting look at hoarding and a general nostalgia or malaise regarding the impending obsolescence of the printed medium. And like the expansive and confused Borgesian library, the works in the show will be densely layered.

Additionally, the gallery will present a special project, “Thirty People Present Their Favorite Book [After Kosuth]” which co-opts Joseph Kosuth’s 1966 show wherein he asked fifteen artists to choose their favorite book and presented the books as an exhibition at Lannis Gallery. In this 2012 iteration, the thirty artists of Friedrich Petzel Gallery have been asked to present their favorite book, which will be on view in the exhibition, and there will be an accompanying brochure documenting the book covers published by Jeremy Sanders and 6 Decades.

Finally, the gallery will have a box sponsored by Little Free Library.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing “good things to read.” The box will be available during gallery hours for visitors to bring in books and to take books in exchange on the honor system. Little Free Library supports reading for children, literacy for adults, and libraries around the world.

Matthew Higgs is an artist, curator and writer based in New York. He is currently the Director of the alternative space White Columns.

Special announcement: Tim Griffin, writer, curator and critic, will read from his newly published book of poetry. Date and time to be announced. Tim Griffin is currently the Director of The Kitchen in New York.

Friedrich Petzel Gallery is located at 537 West 22nd Street New York, NY 10011. Hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For further information, please call (212) 680 9467 or email info@petzel.com. For press queries, contact Marcella Heemsen at marcella@petzel.com.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS (list in formation)

Richard Artschwager
Tauba Auerbach
John Baldessari
Steven Baldi
Erica Baum
Matthew Brannon
Gavin Brown
Clegg and Guttman
Guy de Cointet
Anne Collier
Moyra Davey
Jeremy Deller
Mark Dion
Hans Peter Feldmann
Liam Gillick
Wade Guyton
David Hammons
Matthew Higgs

Candida Höfer
Martin Kippenberger
Sean Landers
John Latham
Robert Longo
Jorge Pardo
Seth Price
Stephen Prina
Richard Prince
Al Ruppertsberg
Cindy Sherman
Josh Smith
John Stezaker
Wolfgang Tillmans
Rachel Whiteread
Steve Wolfe
Heimo Zobernig