

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis is pleased to announce a new exhibition to the Front Room: *Pavel Büchler*. Running parallel to the exhibitions in the Main Galleries, this series of smaller presentations operates at a different speed, lasting only a few weeks. The programming for the Front Room places a particular emphasis on the work of artists at an emergent stage of their career, or on more experimental curatorial ideas and practices.

Czech-born, Manchester-based artist Pavel Büchler has long been an influential teacher and writer, whose work is characterized by a reworking of images, objects and experiences, fusing conventional visual languages with disruptive and intuitive acts of reapplication and re-purposing. His works range from large-scale installations using old-style audiovisual technology, to text works and meticulous conceptual drawings, to minimal gestures such as a video paused on a TV screen for a year. Describing his practice as "making nothing happen," he attends to the catalytic nature of art, and the potential for the seemingly banal to be exposed for its strangeness.

In the Front Room, Büchler presents *Work (All the cigarette breaks, October 2008 - February 2011)* (2008-2011). Comprised of over 800 individual pictures, this large-scale composite takes its largest form to date. Created by CAM staff according to the artist's instructions, *Work* documents every smoking break the artist has taken while installing exhibitions over a two-year period. This by-product and partial document of the artist's exhibition-making over time allows him to trace the places, people and institutions he has encountered, while creating a subtle suggestion of his presence even when "absent." Nearly filling a large wall in The Front Room, Büchler's presentation represents a picture of social exchange, solitary contemplation, and the interstitial spaces of art-making.

Pavel Büchler's recent solo exhibitions include *Peep Hole*, Milan; *Kunstparterre*, Munich; *DOX*, Prague; *annex14*, Bern; *Street Level Photoworks*, Glasgow; *Tanya Leighton Gallery*, Berlin; *Max Wigram Gallery*, London; *Van Abbemuseum*, Eindhoven; *MuHKA*, Antwerp; and *Kunsthalle Bern*, among others. He has presented work in group exhibitions at the *Grand Seminary and Aurentshuis*, Bruges; *Tinguely Museum*, Basel; *Royal Academy of Arts*, London; *David Roberts Foundation*, London; *Temporäre Kunsthalle*, Berlin; *Leeds Art Gallery*, Leeds; *Shangart Gallery*, Shanghai; *Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea*, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; the *9th Istanbul Biennial*; *National Museum of Modern Art*, Athens; among other group exhibitions in the UK and Europe. Büchler's exhibition in The Front Room marks his first museum presentation in the U.S.

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