PRESS RELEASE

Rirkrit Tiravanija

untitled, 2001 (demo station no. 1)

April 7 – May 20, 2001

Opening on Friday, April 6, 2001, 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Invitation to a conversation with the press on Friday, April 6, 2001, at 11:00 a.m.

The artist will be present.

Rirkrit Tiravanija himself describes his sculptures and installations as models. Tiravanija almost always creates stages, platforms or spaces that can be understood as offers to the exhibition visitor. In 1996, for example, he built a true-to-scale replica of his New York apartment in the Kölnische Kunstverein which could be inhabited around the clock during the course of the exhibition. At the Kunsthalle St. Gallen, he installed a sound studio which was made available to local music groups as a practice room. With his works, Tiravanija merely makes suggestions that can be adopted but also altered or further developed.

For his exhibition at Portikus, Rirkit Tiravanija plans a situation-specific spatial installation. The skylight and the floor of the hall which were redesigned by Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset for the previous exhibition will be kept the way they are. Tiravanija's installations include a large stage platform intended for various projects and activities. During the entire period of the exhibition, there will be, among other things, regular concerts, readings and workshops; an editorial office for a magazine will be set up, as well as a bar.

All activities within Tiravanija's exhibition at Portikus will be broadcasted live by the online channel "o Ver Channel" and can be followed and commented on via the link *www.superchannel.org*. "o Ver Channel" is the online platform of "o Ver Magazine" which is published by Rirkit Tiravanija and the Namdee Publishing Station in Bangkok. The "o Ver Magazine" and the "o Ver Channel" are offers, too. They constitute an international forum for artistic and documentary contributions of various interests.

Through the planned activities as well as the live broadcasting with the possibility of making immediate comments, but also through the integration of the already existing spatial installation by Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset, the neutrality of the institutional exhibition space and the social function of Portikus beyond the conventional opening will be examined anew.

Rirkrit Tiravanija (born 1961 in Buenos Aires, Argentina) lives and works, among other places, in Bangkok, Berlin and New York. He will begin a one-year visiting professorship at the Städelschule this summer semester.

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