MIKA TAJIMA, *The Extras*

X Initiative is pleased to present *The Extras*, a multimedia installation by New York-based artist Mika Tajima. Conceived as a film set, stage, greenroom, and prop house structure, *The Extras* includes a selection of sculptural works, both previous and new, performances, a video and a slide piece. Scattered throughout the ground floor in scenario arrangements, the sculptures double as "actors" waiting in the wings, on set, put to task, others stowed in racks on the side. This *mise en scène* employs formal devices such as framing and painting tropes, elements of interior design and architecture to delineate various positions of inclusion and exclusion, obstruction and transparency, segment and surplus.

Three new sculptural works produced for *The Extras* are layered with printed, abstract architectural patterns and incorporate images quoting "condemned" building symbols, unfinished luxury condominium, and support scaffolding patterns. The sculptures are constructed similar to Jacques Tati's *tromp l'oeil* cinema flats of three-dimensional buildings in "Playtime", a film in which this common scenery practice was used to create a hypermodernist architectural backdrop of Paris riddled with functional and aesthetic contradictions.

Tajima's new video work *Dead By Third Act* documents a performance project by her collaborative group New Humans in which a compact car is methodically destroyed in the original Fiat factory in Turin, Italy, a historically complex site of industrialism, worker struggle, and Futurism. This performance is situated in a montage of the factory's modernist architecture (now a shopping mall), the aftermath of a Slow Food fair, building preparations for an international art fair, unfinished condo constructions, and flavored alcoholic beverages.

Along with this exhibition, Tajima will expand her installation by punctuating it with two events: on April 2nd, Sylvère Lotringer, professor of French literature and philosophy at Columbia University and founder of Semiotext(e), will talk about his publication *Autonomia: Post-Political Politics* on the 1970s Italian leftist movement in conjunction with *Dead By Third Act*. On April 9th, New Humans, a Brooklyn based noise band and moniker for collaborative work with musicians, artists, and designers created by Tajima, will present a performance featuring other members Howie Chen and Eric Tsai.

Tajima has had solo exhibitions at RISD Museum, Providence, RI; The Kitchen, New York, NY; COMA, Berlin; Circuit, Lausanne and has a forthcoming project at SFMoMA, San Francisco, CA. Her work has been featured in the *2008 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; *Sympathy for the Devil*, MCA Chicago, IL, traveled to Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL; *Bunch, Alliance and Dissolve*, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH; *Uncertain States of America*, Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, Norway, etc. and *Surface Tension* at the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA.