



a contemporary art space

SITE SANTA FE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL THE DISSOLVE

June 20, 2010-January 2, 2011
Sarah Lewis & Daniel Belasco, Curators
Adjaye Associates, Exhibition Designer



June 15, 2010

SITE Santa Fe
1606 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

www.sitesantafe.org

PRESS CONTACT:
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It is the mission of SITE's International Biennial to identify, distill, and present a new quality in the art of its time. The Eighth International Biennial, *The Dissolve*, surveys a striking creative development found in contemporary art. Emerging and established artists working in many mediums, from painting and sculpture to film and mixed-media installation, have mined techniques of early animation and moving image technologies to create a hybrid practice where the hand-made meets the high-tech. This desire to animate the work of art—to bring it to life—defines the spirit of the Biennial. Its title, *The Dissolve*, describes the essential quality of this new sensibility merging with the old. The Biennial runs from June 20, 2010 through January 2, 2011.

Biennial Artists

Robert Breer, Paul Chan, Martha Colburn, Thomas Demand, Brent Green, George Griffin, Ezra Johnson, Bill T. Jones & OpenEnded Group, William Kentridge, Avish Khebrehzadeh, Laleh Khorramian, Maria Lassnig, Jennifer & Kevin McCoy, Joshua Mosley, Oscar Muñoz, Jacco Olivier, Raymond Pettibon, Robert Pruitt, Christine Rebet, Mary Reid Kelley, Robin Rhode, Hiraki Sawa, Berni Searle, Cindy Sherman, Federico Solmi, Kara Walker, with historical works by Edison Manufacturing Company, Fleischer Studios, Lotte Reiniger, and Dziga Vertov.

The exhibition gathers over 25 works of recent art to show the full extent of this practice, displaying them in juxtaposition with historical animations, some dating back to the early twentieth century. Hiraki Sawa, for example, uses the model of the flip book as the template for the action of his video. The vaudevillian lightning sketch and the stop motion animation technique of early Edison Manufacturing Company films appear as a compelling analogy to works by Oscar Muñoz and Robin Rhode. Shadow puppetry films, popularized by Lotte Reiniger's 1926 film, *the Adventures of Prince Achmed*, offer Kara Walker's silhouette technique a powerful historical antecedent. In so doing, this Biennial will look at contemporary art developments through a bifocal lens, with an eye to both cultural history connected to the evolution of the moving image, as well as to that of contemporary art.



Cindy Sherman
Still from *Doll Clothes*, 1975
16mm film transferred to DVD; 2 minutes 22 seconds
Courtesy of the artist and Metro Pictures, New York

The exhibition design, executed through a commission by renowned architect David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates, references the historical evolution of the viewing environment—from the intimate view offered by the nickelodeon to the arena-like communal interior of Cinerama, and back to the personal mode in the 21st century offered through digital platforms. The scale of presentation and the range of materials vary greatly, yet one element remains constant: the remixing and recombining of the familiar and the strange to revitalize old media, creating compelling new stories that probe social histories and personal narratives.



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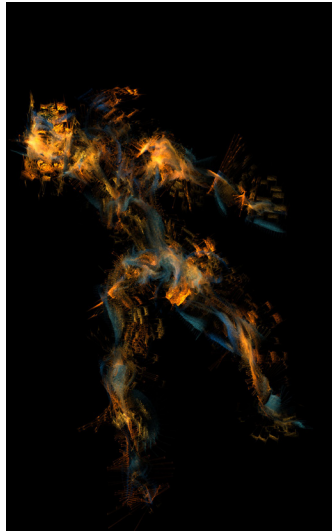
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Bill T. Jones and OpenEnded Group

SITE Santa Fe is pleased to announce the commissioning of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and OpenEnded Group to create a new work, *After Ghostcatching*, for its Eighth International Biennial exhibition. This tenth anniversary re-invention of the acclaimed virtual dance installation *Ghostcatching* (1999) employs 3-D graphics for an even more immersive experience of the original, which The Village Voice has called "...spectral, fluid and incredibly accomplished, a landmark in the computerized rendering of the human form." For the opening weekend celebration, the Company performs on Saturday, June 19 at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe, where it will also present the premiere theatrical screening of *After Ghostcatching*.



Bill T Jones and OpenEnded Group
Draft still from *After Ghostcatching*, 2010
Courtesy of OpenEnded Group

After Ghostcatching is a virtual dance for stereoscopic display. OpenEnded Group (Marc Downie, Shelley Eshkar, and Paul Kaiser) re-imagines *Ghostcatching*, a seamless integration of visual art, dance and technology that transforms Bill T. Jones' distinctive movement into an animated drawing through the use of motion-capture technique. Taking advantage of the evolution of 3-D and refinements in projection methods, *After Ghostcatching* enhances the original version with the latest cutting-edge technology to further play with perceptions of Jones' dancing figure. Now, as viewers don 3-D glasses, they experience the virtual movement in real depth.

Another artist commissioned to make a new work for the Biennial is Mary Reid Kelley. Her work is described by the Los Angeles Times as "...Propelled by Kelley's skillful, double-tongued speech, riddled with puns, suggestive homonyms and clichés, the videos are bizarre, thoroughly engrossing tableaux," and her new work for the Biennial, *You Make Me Illiad*, promises to deliver similar pleasures. The exhibition also features new works by Avish Khebrezhadeh, Laleh Khorrarnian, and Federico Solmi.

Catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue containing an introduction by SITE Phillips Director, Laura Steward; a preface by Williams College Museum of Art curator, Nancy Mowll Mathews on the return of moving image to the museum gallery; the exhibition essay, co-authored by curators Sarah Lewis and Daniel Belasco; full page color spreads for each of the 26 contemporary artists or artists groups in the exhibition; edited transcripts of an artist round-table held prior to the Biennial; a timeline of innovation in over a century of animation; and the exhibition checklist. Designed by Skolkin + Chickey, the catalogue is 212 pages in hardcover, and measures 11.25 x 9.25 inches. The retail price is \$50 and it is available at SITE Santa Fe, and distributed by Distributed Art Publishers (DAP).

Website

thedissolve.net is the URL for the newly created website devoted to the Biennial, which includes information on the exhibition, event calendar, related programs, and project support. Perhaps the highlight of the site is the ability of website visitors to view clips of works in the exhibition, to prepare for their visit, and to review post-visit. In the digital and youtube era, SITE aims to make the Biennial content as accessible as possible. To our knowledge, this website marks the first time so much actual artistic content will be posted online and viewable virtually by audiences, while the exhibition is on view to the public.

SITE also is organizing a lively roster of public programs, lectures, and performances to com-



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plement the Biennial exhibition, including performances by artists Martha Colburn, Jennifer & Kevin McCoy, and a talk by author and critic Jerry Saltz, among others. A complete calendar is attached.

Funding

The exhibition is made possible in part through generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Burnett Foundation, Agnes Gund, Jeanne & Michael L. Klein, Toby Devan Lewis, Marlene Nathan Meyerson, The Millstream Fund, The Mondriaan Foundation, the SITE Santa Fe Board of Directors, and many other generous donors.

Opening Weekend Events

From Friday, June 18 – Sunday, June 20, 2010, SITE will host a gala opening weekend, featuring a lively array of events. Many of these are fundraising opportunities, and ticket packages are available to the public where indicated in the schedule of events following at the end of this release.

SITE is especially privileged to have **Agnes Gund** as Honorary Chair, **Jeanne & Michael L. Klein** as Honorees; **Fay & Donald Kirby** and **Wendy & Peter Trevisani** are Gala Weekend Co-Chairs.



Avish Khebrezhadeh
Theater III, 2010
Oil on gesso and wood
90" x 135"
Edgar, 2010
Video; sound
7 minutes 17 seconds
Courtesy of the artist



Martha Colburn
Video still from *Myth Labs*, 2008
16mm film transferred to DVD; sound; 7 minutes 40 seconds; Courtesy of the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York

Friday kicks off with the Patrons' Preview with the art world glitterati for the first look at the Biennial; to the **Gala Benefit Dinner** at the Santa Fe Farmers Market, created by the renowned chef and author, **Deborah Madison** in collaboration with Marja Custom Catering; followed by the free post-party at **Second Street Brewery at the Railyard** featuring **One Night Stand**, a selection of video projections curated by SITE's Education Department. The community is invited to celebrate the Opening of the Biennial at the Post-party which will feature music by **Stephanie Hatfield and Hot Mess**. The community is invited to celebrate the Opening of the Biennial at the Post-Party.

On Saturday, **Robert Storr** will moderate the **Biennial Panel Discussion** at National Dance Institute, where the curators, exhibition designer, and participating artists **Paul Chan, Mary Reid Kelley, and Kara Walker** will discuss various perspectives on the exhibition. That evening, SITE is especially delighted to present the world renowned **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** in a special performance featuring a new commission in collaboration with OpenEnded Group at The Lensic Performing Arts Center, at 8 pm. (see separate release).

Finally, on Sunday, SITE hosts the free **public opening** of the Biennial from 12-5pm, and at the Lensic, **The Abstract Dissolve**, a video screening of related abstract animations, will conclude the weekend. (see separate release).



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**SITE Santa Fe Eighth International Biennial
The Dissolve
June 20, 2010-January 2, 2011**

**Schedule of Events
June – December 2010
www.thedissolve.net**

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Friday, June 18

Biennial Patrons Preview and Gala Dinner, 5 pm (tickets \$500 and \$1,000)
Biennial Patrons Preview only, 5 – 7 pm (tickets \$250)

Friday, June 18, 9 pm

One Night Stand video projections in and around the Railyard
Biennial Post Party at the Second Street Brewery at the Railyard at 9:30 pm
featuring Stephanie Hatfield and Hot Mess
Free admission

Saturday, June 19, 11 am – 12 pm

The 2010 Biennial Panel Discussion

Dissolving Media: A Biennial Conversation

Panelists: Sarah Lewis, Daniel Belasco, David Adjaye, artists Paul Chan, Mary Reid Kelley, and Kara Walker, with Moderator, Robert Storr

National Dance Institute, 1140 Alto Street

Co-sponsored by TAI Gallery, Alicia & Bill Miller, and Nancy Ziegler Nodelman & Dwight Strong
Tickets \$10/\$5 at SITE Santa Fe or at the door

Saturday, June 19, 4 - 6 pm

Member's Opening

Free for Members of SITE

Saturday, June 19, 8 pm

Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Performance

The Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street

Tickets: \$100, \$50, \$30. Call Tickets Santa Fe at 505-988-1234

or visit www.TicketsSantaFe.org

Sunday, June 20, 12 - 5 pm

Public Opening of *The Dissolve*

Runs through January 2, 2011

Free Admission Sunday

Sunday, June 20, 1 pm

The Abstract Dissolve

The Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street

Tickets: \$10. Call Tickets Santa Fe at 505-988-1234 or visit www.TicketsSantaFe.org



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Tuesday, June 29, 6 pm
The Good, the Bad, and the Very Bad: A Year in the Life of an Art Critic
Lecture by Jerry Saltz
Co-sponsored by Avalon Trust

Tuesday, July 13, 6 pm
My Life in Art
Rethinking the Art Institution and Its Audience
Mark Allen and Adam Lerner
Co-sponsored by TAI Gallery

Tuesday, July 20, 6 pm
My Life in Art
Marlene Meyerson with Sarah Greenough
Co-sponsored by Turner Carroll Gallery

Tuesday, July 27, 6 pm
My Life in Art
Truths Worth Grasping
Susan Sollins with Juliet Myers
Co-sponsored by Zane Bennett Gallery

Tuesday, August 10, 6 pm
Artists Talk about Artists
Jennifer and Kevin McCoy
Co-sponsored by David Richard Contemporary

Tuesday, August 17, 6 pm
My Life In Art
Talk and Draw
Patrick Oliphant and Morley Safer
Co-sponsored by Gebert Contemporary

Friday, August 27, 7 pm
Live at SITE: Gallery Gig
FOLKy TONK: *Weedpatch or Bust*
Co-sponsored by Allsup's and Coca-Cola
Free admission; suggested donation

Saturday, September 11, 1 – 4 pm
Sunday September 12, 2 – 4 pm
From the Familiar to the Unexpected: A Two-Day Writing Workshop
based on *The Dissolve* with Miriam Sagan

Friday, September 24, 7 pm
Performance by Martha Colburn and Jad Fair



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Tuesday, October 12, 6 pm
One Night Stand – Reprised

Friday, October 29, 7-9 pm
Live at SITE: Gallery Gig
Goshen: *Tranced Out Apocobilly, and Celestial Balladry*
Co-sponsored by Allsup's and Coca-Cola
Free admission; suggested donation

Tuesday, November 9, 5:30-7pm
Contemporary Cocktail: *Out of Shadows, Silhouettes in Art*
By Joanne Lefrak

Tuesday, November 16, 5:30-7pm
Contemporary Cocktail: *Video into Art*
By Janet Dees

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at SITE Santa Fe; please call 505.989.1199 or visit www.sitesantafe.org for tickets and information. Tuesday, July 27, 6 pm

This announcement is made possible in part by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers Tax.