

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



all we ever wanted was everything

November 5 - December 4, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, November 5, 6 – 9 pm

Featuring commissioned posters by:

Fia Backström, Shannon Ebner, Patricia Esquivias
Spencer Finch, Joachim Koester, Alice Könitz
Gonzalo Lebrija, Mathias Poledna, Danh Vo

Literary contribution by: Michael Ned Holte

Curated by: galería perdida

EFA Project Space

323 West 39th Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10018
between 8th and 9th Avenues

Gallery Hours: Wed through Sat, 12-6

T. 212-563-5855, F. 212-563-1875

projectspace@efanyc.org

www.efanyc.org

Beverages provided by: Brooklyn Brewery

all we ever wanted was everything commissions nine artists to question the importance of the single image. For this exhibition, a selection of diverse artists will design a single black and white image to be produced as a run of one thousand posters, free for the taking. The resulting nine stacks without context or explanation remain waiting as sculpture, installation, publicity. Which will be chosen? Which will be favored and by whom? These images articulate episodic moments in history, abstraction and storytelling, developing their own narratives as defined by their use. They represent an acknowledgment of the poster's history from political tool to contemporary strategy. As such, they take on new meanings determined by their new lives. The images are far-reaching, sharing between them interests in photography, text, and formal properties as well as revisiting a populist form tethered to its social, cultural, and political roots. These stacks parallel our desires, as they are subject to change: on a wall, in the trash, wrapped around a present...

Fia Backström Born 1970 in Stockholm, Sweden; lives and works in New York. Fia Backström elusively questions our relationship to commodifiable objects and their presentation, including those found in art galleries and museums. Utilizing art ads and film posters amongst other detritus, Backström subverts mass media marketing to encompass her installations. She has recently exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the Museum of Modern Art, NY as part of their 9 Screens initiative.

Shannon Ebner Born 1971 in Englewood, New Jersey; lives and works in Los Angeles. Sculpture and photography are coalesced into a single form in Ebner's works. By presenting tangible objects as flat surfaces, Ebner reconstitutes them as ambiguous hybrids, their meaning obfuscated like the language found within her images. Ebner will be the subject of two upcoming concurrent exhibitions at the Hammer Museum and LA><ART in Los Angeles.

Patricia Esquivias Born 1979 in Caracas, Venezuela; lives and works in Guadalajara, Mexico and Madrid, Spain. For Esquivias, monologues concerning the peculiar connections between cultures are often more meaningful if examined by their seemingly inconsequential details. Random images and objects fill her videos serving as humorous reminders of how we all might really be connected. Recent solo exhibitions include *Patricia Esquivias: Reads like the paper* at Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis and at Murray Guy, NY.

Spencer Finch Born 1962 in New Haven, Connecticut; lives and works in New York. On exacting the casting light of a full moon or diverting our memories through color, Finch creates installations that pull the poetics out of infallible science. Wonder and amusement are often the results of this alchemy, yet it is hard to neglect the formal properties that underscore Finch's works. Currently, Finch's *The River That Flows Both Ways* can be seen on the High Line in New York City.

Joachim Koester Born 1962 in Copenhagen, Denmark; lives and works in New York. Koester's captivating photographs, whether they be of the Manson Family refuge or a homeopathic solution to spider bites, investigate cultural perceptions in historical precedents and how they are enacted today. Koester's exhibition *From the Secret Garden of Sleep* was recently on view at the Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City.

Alice Könitz Born 1970 in Essen, Germany; lives and works in Los Angeles. Not exactly furniture and almost sculpture, Könitz's works imbue a designated vagueness that suggests an uncertain utility. What ever their ultimate use may be, one certain outcome of Könitz's objects is their ability to promote an intimate interaction regardless of their surroundings. Könitz has had recent exhibitions at Susanne Vielmetter Berlin Projects and Los Angeles Nomadic Division.

Gonzalo Lebrija Born 1972 in Mexico City, Mexico; lives and works in Guadalajara, Mexico. Lebrija's works consider the vulnerable side of politics, addressing social concerns and constructions through use of wry humor and quotidian objects. Lebrija is a Co-Founder and Director of Oficina para Proyectos de Arte A.C. (OPA) and his *History of Suspended Time: Monuments for the Impossible* was included in the 2010 Biennial of the Americas.

Mathias Poledna Born 1965 in Vienna, Austria; lives and works in Los Angeles. In Mathias Poledna's film works, history does not play a passive role. His films meticulously reconstruct moments of quiet cultural phenomenon, reasserted within a contemporary context. Whether they reference architectural ideologies or refashion underground movements from some time ago, Poledna reminds us of their pertinence today. Poledna has been included in major exhibitions at the New Museum, New York and Portikus, Frankfurt am Main.

Danh Vo Born 1975 in Ba Ria, Vietnam; lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Vo's work traces the intertwining histories of individuals as told through their objects and desires. Recent exhibitions include *Autoerotic Asphyxiation* at Artist's Space, New York and the first installment of Elena Filipovic's *Felix Gonzalez-Torres Specific Objects without Specific Form* at the WIELS Contemporary ArtCentre.

Michael Ned Holte Born 1973 in Janesville, Wisconsin; lives and works in Los Angeles. Michael Ned Holte is a regular contributor to *Artforum* and has featured many articles in *Afterall*, *Frieze*, *Domus*, and *Interview*. As an independent curator, he has organized the exhibitions *Support Group* at Cottage Home, Los Angeles and *Laying Bricks* at WallSpace, New York. He is currently a Visiting Artist Faculty at the California Institute for the Arts.

galería perdida Established 2005 in Chilchota, Mexico; lives and works in New York. Taking the name of what was their initial project space in Chilchota, Michoacan, Mexico, galería perdida consists of blurred distinctions, at once providing contexts for artists while informing and producing a varied body of work. From situations to structures to films, their practice remains openly equivocal, encouraging and exploring the inevitable shifts in translation.

EFA Project Space is a Program of **The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts**.

EFA Project Space, a multi-disciplinary contemporary art venue focused on the investigation of the creative process, aims to provide dynamic exchanges between artists, cultural workers, and the public. Art is directly connected to its producers, to the communities they are a part of, and to every day life. By contextualizing and revealing these connections, we strive to bridge gaps in our cultural community, forging new partnerships and the expansion of ideas. Through these synergies, artists build on their creative power to further impact society.

The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA) is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. Through its three core programs, **EFA Studios**, **EFA Project Space**, and the **Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop**, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. www.efanyc.org

EFA Project Space is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Private funding for the Gallery has been received from Lily Auchincloss Foundation and The Carnegie Corporation Inc.

The logo for EFA Project Space features the lowercase letters 'efa' in a red, serif font, followed by the words 'project space' in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font.

A Program of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts

323 West 39th Street 2nd Floor New York NY 10018
tel 212.564.5855 ext. 244 Hours: Wed - Sat 12-6
www.efanyc.org