

ICI (Independent Curators International) announces the premiere of **PROJECT 35**

An evolving video project selected by 35 international curators.

ICI kicks off its 35th year with the first in a series of new programs and projects to mark the anniversary. **Project 35** is an evolving exhibition of video works selected by 35 international curators and designed in a flexible presentation format, reflecting the diversity and unique nature of the many national and international art spaces ICI partners with. For **Project 35**, each curator has been invited to select one artist's video that they think is important for contemporary art audiences across the globe. The result heralds the new decade, and showcases a new exhibition concept

for ICI, with an eclectic compilation of works that reveal the global reach that video has achieved as a contemporary art medium today.



Yukihiro Taguchi (Japan/Germany). Selections from *Moment*, 2007-08. Single-channel video excerpts

The works are presented in 4 chapters, each containing 8 to 9 videos, and the exhibition unfolds simultaneously in multiple spaces, chapter-by-chapter, over the period of a year. In the first chapter of **Project 35**, 9 emerging and established curators, who collectively have worked in countries as disparate as Egypt,



Dan Halter (Zimbabwe/South Africa). *Untitled (Zimbabwean Queen of Rave)*, 2005. Single-channel video with color and sound

Lithuania and Japan, truly represent the international range of this project: Mai Abu EIDahab (Egypt/Belgium), Zoe Butt (Australia/Vietnam), Mami Kataoka (Japan), Constance Lewallen (US), Lu Jie (China), Raimundas Malasauskas (Lithuania/France), Franklin Sirmans (US), Kathryn Smith (South Africa), and José Roca (Colombia).

The collective desire for communication – for sharing perspectives – is evident in **Project 35** – through the subjects dealt with by each artist. These range from reinterpretations of philosophical propositions to uprisings and protests in South Africa, propaganda news broadcasts in China, and emerging youth culture in Ho Chi Minh City. The works also reveal the diversity of approaches artists are now taking to the medium, using various animation techniques, as well as borrowing from the language of cinema, performance, and even YouTube to produce work that weaves between documentary and fiction.



Guy Ben-Ner (Israel) *Berkeley's Island*, 1999. Single-channel video with color and sound.

It is most fitting that this chapter and project begins with Guy Ben-Ner's *Berkeley's Island* (1999), which refers to George Berkeley's famous dictum "to be is to be perceived". It is the curators' and ICI's hope that these videos are "perceived" by diverse communities within the exhibitions spaces that **Project 35** will travel to, inspiring debate and functioning as an international catalyst for dialogue and exchange.

The exhibition will be displayed simultaneously in multiple international venues, beginning with Chicago, Illinois; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; and West Hartford, Connecticut, and continuing to proliferate weekly as more venues and new chapters in the series emerge. Curators who will select videos for subsequent installments of **Project 35** include Ruth Auerbach (Venezuela); Nicolas Bourriaud (France); Yane Calovski (Macedonia); Lee Weng Choy (Singapore); Joselina Cruz (Philippines); Charles Esche (UK/Netherlands); Lauri Firstenberg (U.S.); Alexie Glass-Kantor (Australia); Anthony Huberman (U. S.); Chus Martinez (Spain); Deeksha Nath (India); Simon Njami (Cameroon/France); Hans Ulrich Obrist (Switzerland/UK); Bisi Silva (Nigeria); Susan Sollins (U.S.); Viktor Misiano (Russia); Magali Arriola (Mexico); and Sergio Edelsztein (Israel).



Zhou Xiaohu (China). *Utopian Machine*, 2002. Single-channel video with color and sound

Project 35 recalls the founding initiatives of ICI. It was 35 years ago that ICI organized its very first exhibition, a seminal survey of video art titled *Video Art USA* for the São Paulo Biennial. It presented works by artists that included Vito Acconci, Bruce Nauman, Nam June Paik, Keith Sonnier, Steina Vasulka, and Bill Viola among others. These artists were pioneers working in a medium that was just beginning to gain traction in the field of contemporary art, and ICI proved to be an early and committed proponent of it. The international scope of ICI was clearly indicated in this first exhibition, which went on touring 4 more countries across Latin America. With **Project 35**, ICI further draws from its extensive international network of curators formed over the past 35 years to

organize a new exhibition of international video art, and support new collaborations between curators, artists and exhibitions spaces on national and international platforms.

ARTISTS AND CURATORS IN PROJECT 35: ISSUE ONE

Guy Ben-Ner (Israel) currently lives and works in Tel Aviv, Israel. He was selected by **Mai Abu EIDahab** (Egypt/Belgium) who currently lives in Antwerp, Belgium, where she is the Director of Objectif Exhibitions.

Tuan Andrew Nguyen & Phù Nam Thuc Ha (both Vietnam) currently live and work in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. They were selected by **Zoe Butt** (Australia/Vietnam) who is based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she is the Curator and Director of San Art, an independent artist-run gallery space and reading room.

Zhou Xiaohu (China) graduated in 1989 with a degree in oil painting from Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts. He was selected by **Lu Jie** (China) who is currently based in Beijing, where he is the Chief Curator of the Long March Project, a complex, multi-platform, international arts organization and ongoing art project.

Yukihiko Taguchi (Japan) currently lives and works in Berlin. He was selected by **Mami Kataoka** (Japan) who is currently the Chief Curator at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo as well as

the International Associate Curator at the Hayward Gallery in London.

Kota Ezawa (US/Germany) currently lives and works in San Francisco. He was selected by **Constance Lewallen** (US) who is Adjunct Curator at the University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

Robert Cauble (US) currently lives and works in Chicago. He was selected by **Raimundas Malasauskas** (Lithuania/France) who is a writer and who was a curator-at-large of Artists Space, New York from 2007-08.


Edwin Sánchez (Colombia) currently lives and works in Bogota, Columbia. He was selected by **José Roca** (Colombia) who works out of Bogotá, Colombia and Philadelphia, where he is Artistic Director of *Philagrafika* 2010.

Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz (US) lives and works in New York. She was selected by **Franklin Sirmans** (US) who is the Terri and Michael Smooke Department Head and Curator of Contemporary Art at LACMA, Los Angeles.

Dan Halter (Zimbabwe) currently lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. He was selected by **Kathryn Smith** (South Africa) is an artist, scholar and independent curator who is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Fine Arts Studio Practice in the Department of Visual Arts, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

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ABOUT ICI

 **ICI (Independent Curators International)** produces exhibitions, events, publications, and training opportunities for diverse audiences around the world. A catalyst for independent thinking, ICI connects emerging and established curators, artists, and institutions, to forge international networks and generate new forms of collaboration. Working across disciplines and historical precedents, the organization is a hub that provides access to the people, ideas, and practices that are key to current developments in the field, inspiring fresh ways of seeing and contextualizing contemporary art.

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For additional information or visual materials, contact Michelle Jubin at 212.254.8200 x 21 or jubin@ici-exhibitions.org. Visit ICI's website: www.ici-exhibitions.org



Tuấn Andrew Nguyễn and Phù Nam Thúc Hà (Vietnam). *Uh...*, 2007. Single-channel video with color and sound.