

**SPECIAL EXHIBITION SHOWCASES THE WORK OF 11 CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS:
FRANCIS ALÿS, PETER FISCHLI AND DAVID WEISS, RODNEY GRAHAM, RONI HORN,
ON KAWARA, THOMAS NOZKOWSKI, GABRIEL OROZCO, LAURA OWENS, DIETER
ROTH, AND FRANZ WEST**

Continuous Present, October 6, 2009–January 10, 2010

Continuous Present features a selection of work by 11 of today's most compelling contemporary artists working in a broad array of media, including film, video, photography, painting, and sculpture. The artists chosen for the show are Francis Alÿs, Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Rodney Graham, Roni Horn, On Kawara, Thomas Nozkowski, Gabriel Orozco, Laura Owens, Dieter Roth, and Franz West. Jennifer



Rodney Graham, still from *City Self/Country Self*, 2000. 35 mm film transferred to DVD. Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund

Gross, the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, organized the exhibition, which will be on view at the Yale University Art Gallery from October 6, 2009–January 10, 2010.

While these artists work in disparate media, “their works all challenge conceptions of time and invite viewers to think about how artists use traditional and innovative methods to convey their ideas,” according to Jock Reynolds, the Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Yale University Art Gallery. From On Kawara’s paintings, comprised

only of the date of execution painted in white letters on a flat background, to Francis Alÿs’s animated loop of a woman pouring water back and forth between two glasses, the works in the exhibition speak to the fact that in art, as in life, the essential struggle is the effort to seize the moment – again, and again, and again.

The artists in the exhibition each present works that reflect upon the capacity of art to heighten our sensory awareness. Franz West, for instance, makes sculptures for viewers to connect with through close looking. One such work is West’s brightly colored aluminum *Laokoon* (2002), which will be on view in the sculpture garden outside the Gallery. Roni Horn, *M.F.A. 1978*, creates a series of photographs that were exposed for over a minute to produce hazy impressions of a clown’s face, slowing us down to reveal the moving complexity found in the gathering of small gestures and shifts in observation. Gabriel Orozco creates abstract drawings by placing his pencil down and moving it to the rhythm of his breath.

These works, along with the others in the exhibition, remind us of the capacity of art to profoundly reposition our physical and intellectual engagement with the world around us. Jennifer Gross explains, “Artistic inquiry is often motivated by a singular aspiration – a relentless curiosity for knowledge,

an acute focus of perception, the address of a haunting concern, or the desire for the mastery of craft. The artist doggedly revisits, repositions, and reapproaches this question or vision in his or her studio. The resulting works yield a refraction of the artist's experience for the viewer and offer the opportunity to live in the 'continuous present.'"

Continuous Present is organized by Jennifer Gross, the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. Made possible by the Janet and Simeon Braguin Fund, with additional support provided by the Carol and Sol LeWitt Fund and Allen Grover Fund for Contemporary Art.

Special Event

Artist Roni Horn, M.F.A. 1978, presents her work in the Ryerson Lecture on Thursday, October 8, 5:30 PM. Free and open to the public. A reception will follow at 6:30 PM.

Related Programming

Thursday, October 8, 12:20 PM: Poetry Reading, Poet Cole Swensen reads from *Flare*, a poem written in response to drawings by painter Thomas Nozkowski.

Free gallery talks take place on October 13 and 27 and November 4 and 10:

Tuesday, October 13, 4:00 PM: "Rodney Graham 'Tripping on that Idea . . .,'" Jennifer Gross, the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

Tuesday, October 27, 4:00 PM: "Today's Work: The Design of Consciousness in On Kawara's Date Paintings," Elisabeth Thomas, MC '10

Wednesday, November 4, 12:20 PM: "Continuous Future: Conserving Contemporary Art," Patricia Sherwin Garland, Senior Paintings Conservator, and Carol Snow, Objects Conservator

Tuesday, November 10, 4:00 PM: "Seeing Roth: The Printed Image and Its Ghosts," Colin Lang, PH.D. candidate, History of Art, Yale University

In the series Conversations in Time: Artists on Video, contemporary artists working in video present and discuss their work:

Thursday, October 15, 5:00 PM: Joan Jonas, Hayden Visiting Artist

Thursday, October 22, 5:00 PM: Marijke van Warmerdam, Hayden Visiting Artist

Thursday, October 29, 5:00 PM: Christopher Miner, M.F.A. 2000, Hayden Visiting Artist

Thursday, November 5, 5:00 PM: Catherine Sullivan, Hayden Visiting Artist

Yale University Art Gallery

The Yale University Art Gallery, America's oldest and one of its most important university art museums, was founded in 1832, when patriot-artist John Trumbull donated more than 100 of his paintings to Yale College. Since then, the Gallery's collections have grown to number more than 185,000 objects, spanning the globe and ranging in date from ancient times to the present day. In addition to its celebrated collections of American paintings and decorative arts, the Gallery is noted for its important holdings of Greek and Roman art; early Italian paintings; later European art; Asian art; African art; art of the ancient Americas; and Impressionist, modern, and contemporary works. The Gallery is now preparing for the final phase of a ten-year expansion and renovation project. This includes the renovation of the Swartwout building and Street Hall, the two historic structures adjacent to the Gallery's recently renovated Louis Kahn building. Located at the corner of Chapel and York Streets in New Haven, Connecticut, the Gallery is open to the public free of charge: Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM (Thursday until 8:00 PM, September–June); Sunday 1:00–6:00 PM. Closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, the public may visit <http://artgallery.yale.edu>, or call 203.432.0600.

For additional press information, please contact Ana Davis, Associate Director of Public Information, 203.432.0611, or ana.davis@yale.edu.