

Y Gallery

Augusto Yayiko

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Cringe

May 17th – August 2nd, 2008

DEAN PROJECT in collaboration with Y Gallery are pleased to present “Cringe” a five-part performance-based exhibition series curated by Cecilia Jurado

Considering the current state of the art market — an unlimited oasis and supply of commercial art goods ready to be exchanged in multiple venues around the world — Cecilia Jurado wondered, “What about those in search of a small piece of an artist’s soul and not merely their detritus?” The answer: five culturally critical performance artists who ask, “why not be critical of one’s own world? Art has thousands of followers and many creators, but let’s be honest, much of the world’s population lives fine without it.”

Some artists, while they agree with those who cringe at the art world and its financial excesses, still have a deep desire and love for art that stimulates, provokes, and makes them think. Larry Litt, Brina Thurston, Elena Tejada-Herrera, Noritoshi Hirakawa and Nicolás Dumit Estévez remind us that the unmediated and unrecorded performance experience cannot be acquired and collected.

This exhibition is a conversation about contemporary art and its arbitrary values; like gold, art is only valuable when someone is willing to pay for it. Yet the collecting of art has an intellectual and cultural status far superior to the crass collecting of gold. When considering the idea of collecting art the average man in the street cringes.

Each of the participants will present original first-time-exhibited work. These performers have a razor sharp attitude towards their subjects and they clearly display their opinions. Sometimes these opinions make us cringe as well. Be prepared to cringe.

DEAN PROJECT is located at the back right corner of the P.S.1 Museum in Long Island City

Included artists: **Larry Litt** - May 17th - May 25th
 Brina Thurston - May 31st - June 15th
 Elena Tejada-Herrera - June 19th - July 3rd
 Noritoshi Hirakawa - July 3rd - July 13th
 Nicolás Dumit Estévez - July 26th - August 2nd

For further information, please contact Y Gallery: info@ygallery.com www.ygallerynewyork.com
32-70 85th Street at Northern Blvd Jackson Heights, Queens, NY 11370 / 718-565-6285
Gallery Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday, 12-7 pm

1. LARRY LITT

"CHRISTEBY'S ART AUCTION TONIGHT! WE DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE...LONG AS YOU GOT MONEY!"

May 17th - May 25th

At 7 pm

A performance by Laurence Christeby Litt on New York's bottom feeder fundraising live auction art events..

Larry Litt was born in New York. He has been working with performance, video and photography for the last 20 years doing shaman rituals, burning books, tv series among other things. He performed his 'Video-Mudang' ritual with several Korean artist/musicians in the 1993 Venice Biennale, sharing the award winning German Pavilion with Nam June Paik and Hans Haacke. He has since performed it worldwide. Since 2001 Litt has written and produced 30 short films as part of his Blame Show series. The videos were seen on Time-Warner cable television from 2005 to 2007. His videos are in the collections of many museums and art libraries. His 'Hate Books—Holy Fires' has been seen at the Moscow Biennale 2007, in New York at the Emily Harvey Foundation's Blago Bung Festival and at Magnan Projects, Litt's Chelsea gallery. Larry Litt lives and works in New York.

2. BRINA THURSTON

"ASSHOLE:

Paradigms of consumption traced through its logical end"

May 31st - June 15th

Brina Thurston performs at 7pm

For the second installment of the Cringe exhibition at DEAN PROJECT, Brina Thurston challenges the practice of exchanging money for access to contemporary art institutions.

Brina Thurston was born in New York in 1977. She studied at NYU New York University and received an MFA from Bard College / ICP. She had a solo exhibition at Rivington Arms Gallery, New York earlier this year and she has participated in numerous group exhibitions, the most recent ones at GBE Gavin Brown / Passerby. She lives in New York City.

3. ELENA TEJADA-HERRERA

ABOUT YOU

June 19th - July 3rd

Reception for the artist: Saturday June 28th from 6-9pm

For "Cringe" Tejada-Herrera created "About You" for which she will be wondering around Queens everyday between the 19th of June until the 28th exploring the aesthetics of real life and social interaction. The gallery walls of Dean Project will be filled up during this process by the descriptions of her interactions as recorded by those who she encounters during those days. People's memories and subjectivity will be the filter that defines what is at last seen. Truth and fiction could possibly be blended. The artist will manage to offer the participants a worthwhile experience or a sort of worthwhile exchange.

Elena Tejada-Herrera is a multimedia artist who has created performance and multimedia artworks in Peru, USA, Japan, Canada, Australia and in Europe for more than two decades. She was awarded the Grand Prix "Best AV action piece" at the Parnu XIII International Film and Video Festival in Estonia in 2007, as well as a first prize

"Passport for an artist" by the French Government for a performance piece. Tejada-Herrera has also participated at the Sao Paulo-Valencia Biennial, and at the NIPAF07 in 2007, at The Kitchen in 2006, as well as at El Museo del Barrio in 2008. Her performances are cultural exchanges produced within the context of everyday life. These exchanges are her interactions with other people within these people's territories. Her performances occur on the streets, highways, malls, telephone lines, public or private buildings, and on the Internet.

4. NORITOSHI HIRAKAWA

OPEN STUDIO FOR ENOLA CARR

Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th

Performances: 2 - 7pm

"I am Enola Carr. I have been creating great art works many people did not notice yet. After moving into New York from New England five years ago, acquired my important technique of creation seemed unfamiliar for everyone. With my inventive thoughts out of my unique and excellent insight, I am sure the artwork presenting at "Open Studio" will be very impressively memorable for every visitor. It will be a historic event for American Art. I am continually searching for beauties of world through my special eyes. And you are going to be one of witnesses for being my admirer between July 10th and 13th. I guarantee that it will be a greatest and best experience you are going to have. Only people who received my invitation card are admitted to visit my Open Studio. Reservation is not required but please be aware that this event only fits with people who are familiar with American Art under our great history. Any question or special request for admittance, please contact some of my friends who may have the invitation card. There is a receptionist George McKinley at the door of my studio.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

*True Love,
Enola Carr"*

For this performance, Noritoshi Hirakawa emulates the life of a female contemporary American artist, Enola Carr, who is going to interact with the audience and with a Filipino receptionist, George McKinley. Hirakawa addresses sexuality, relationships, and mechanisms of our society reflecting on the irony of Enola's reality.

Noritoshi Hirakawa was born 1960 in Japan. He has created numerous works in photography, video, dance, installation, and performance and has been exhibited at museums, art centers, and galleries all over the world including PS1 Moma, Centre Pompidou, and Kunsthalle Wien, among others. Hirakawa has participated in the "Venice Biennale Aperto", "Istanbul Biennale", "Site Santa Fe Biennale" and "Tirana Biennial". Also, he has collaborated with artists in other fields, such as poets, musicians, choreographers and architects and presented at Das TAT, Frankfurt, Danse Montpellier and Fondation Cartier. Hirakawa lives in New York and is represented by Deitch Projects.

5. NICOLÁS DUMIT ESTÉVEZ

"IN HIS SHOES: THE MORE I HONOR YOU THE MORE YOU BLESS ME"

July 26th - August 2nd

On June 2007, Estévez journeyed from his home in the South Bronx to the Czech Republic to embody the religious symbol of its capital, the adored Infant of Prague. As such, he wore a hand-made interpretation of one of the seventy-plus vestments in His wardrobe to incarnate the Holy Infant in His worldly place of residence. But because current airline restrictions prevented Estévez from traveling in the vestments, he passed

through Berlin, where he was ceremonially dressed as the Icon at a ceremony undertaken by curator Alanna Lockward prior to journeying on to Prague. On the journey back from the Czech Republic to Germany, the Infant was undressed at Arttranspoder, an art gallery, and he, Nicolás, returned to himself in preparation for traveling home to the US.

On December 20-25, a detailed account of the journey, entitled *Induced Labor*, was undertaken as part of the final phase of *In His Shoes*. This consisted of a five-day stay at an undisclosed cloistered monastery, where Estévez reenacted the embodiment as a way of inviting the Infant to manifest His spiritual as well as bodily experiences in writing. The disembodiment of the Child and Estévez' own symbolic rebirth took place on the morning of December 25. A publication written by Estévez and published by Dean Project will document this experience.

This exhibition will serve as the platform for the launching of "*Induced Labor*," Estévez' publication documenting "*In His Shoes*." Furthermore, it will feature an audio collaboration between Estévez and Jonny Farrow.

Nicolás Dumit Estévez is an interdisciplinary artist who has exhibited and performed extensively in the US as well as internationally at venues such as Madrid Abierto/ARCO, IDENSITAT, LOOP, The IX Havana Biennial, The III International Theatre Festival of Santo Domingo, PERFORMA 05 and 07, Longwood Arts Project/Bronx Council on the Arts, Prague Quadrennial, The Queens Museum of Art, El Museo del Barrio, and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), among others. His most recent work includes *For Art's Sake*, a series of seven secular pilgrimages to seven museums in the New York metropolitan area, presented with LMCC and the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art. Other projects include *Thirty Two Letters to my Dentist*, a publication launched at the Center for Book Arts in the spring of 2008 and *Nocturns* to be developed for EmergeNYC and the Hemispheric Institute at NYU. In September of the same year he performs and exhibits *The Passerby Museum*, an ongoing public intervention in collaboration with María Alós, at the Claremont Museum of Art in Los Angeles. Born in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic. Estévez lives and works in the South Bronx.