

WHITNEY

Press Release

Contact:
Jan Rothschild, Stephen Soba, Meghan Bullock
(212) 570-3633 or pressoffice@whitney.org
www.whitney.org/press
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WHITNEY'S INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM PRESENTS *IMAGE WAR: CONTESTING IMAGES OF POLITICAL CONFLICT*, MAY 19-JUNE 25, 2006

At the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street

Opening Reception: Friday, May 19, 2006, 6-8 pm
Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 12-6 pm

Featuring work by fourteen contemporary international artists, *Image War: Contesting Images of Political Conflict* highlights recent artistic practices that explore media representations of war and conflict. Artists included are Willie Doherty, Claire Fontaine, Coco Fusco, Rainer Ganahl, Joy Garnett, Jon Haddock, Amar Kanwar, Dinh Q. Lê, An-My Lê, Radical Software Group (RSG), and Tamiko Thiel & Zara Houshmand. The exhibition is on view from May 19 through June 25 at The Art Gallery of the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street.

Organized by the 2005/06 Helena Rubenstein Curatorial Fellows of the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program, this exhibition features work in a variety of media including painting, photography, digital compositions, video, and interactive virtual reality. The works in the show were all made since the first Gulf War, but focus on conflicts ranging from the Vietnam War through the current war in Iraq. The artists in the exhibition examine how media coverage of political violence often determines our understanding of conflicts.

In *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y* (1995/1997) the artist Johan Grimontez mines archives of televised airplane hijackings, remixing the material into a compelling, disco-driven video narrative that rethinks depictions of air terror.

In Rainer Ganahl's *Afghan Dialogs* series (2001-03), two of which are included in *Image War*, the artist took taglines from the bottom of cable news channels during the U.S. military campaign in

Afghanistan. He then embroidered them into large fabric banners, which were sent to Afghanistan, where residents were given the opportunity to stitch their own responses to these taglines.

Joy Garnett's painting *Kill Box* (2001) appropriates a night-vision image of a tank from the First Gulf War as made iconic by television coverage. This painterly interpretation highlights a dissonance between the digital image and the human touch.

In conjunction with the exhibition three special events are planned. On **Tuesday, May 23, 7- 9 pm** in the Martin E. Segal Theatre of The Graduate Center, artists Joy Garnett and Alexander Galloway will discuss modes of appropriation in their artwork. On **Tuesday, May 30, 7- 9 pm** in the Martin E. Segal Theatre of The Graduate Center, Coco Fusco will host the New York premiere of her new video *Operation Atropos*. And on **Saturday, June 8 at 5:30 pm** neuroTransmitter will lead a performance which will begin at The Art Gallery.

About The Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program

The Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program (ISP) was founded thirty-nine years ago as an innovative, alternative approach to the education of young curators, art historians, and critics. The ISP is widely known and highly respected in both the art and academic communities in the US and throughout the world. The ISP provides a unique setting for the critical study of the diverse practices, discourses, and institutions that constitute the fields of artistic and cultural production.

About The Whitney Museum

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:

Whitney Biennial 2006	Through May 28, 2006
Full House: The Whitney's Collection at 75	June 29-September 3, 2006
Mark Grotjahn	September 15, 2006-January 7, 2007
Picasso and American Art	September 28, 2006-January 28, 2007
Albers and Moholy-Nagy	November 2, 2006-January 21, 2007
Kiki Smith	November 16, 2006-February 11, 2007
Lorna Simpson	February 7-May 6, 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	Opens February 22, 2007
Terence Koh	Spring 2007

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:

Andrea Zittel: Wagon Stations	Through June 18, 2006
Trace	Opens June 29, 2006

The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc. Admission is free. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453.