

Press release:

## ***An Interest in Life***

Curated by:

John Baldessari and Meg Cranston

February 5 - March 8, 2003

Brienne Arrington - Erin Cosgrove - Micol Hebron  
Jen Liu - Jennifer Nelson - D'Ette Nogle

Public opening reception:

Wednesday, February 5, 6-8 pm

The exhibition takes its title from a Grace Paley short story where a character states, "All that is necessary for survival of the fittest, it seems, is an interest in life, good, bad, or peculiar." *An Interest in Life* introduces the work of six Los Angeles based artists who share the curators' affection for the fanciful, the humorous, and the absurd.

Brienne Arrington's work titled *Holiday* includes thousands of travel slides from the 1950's through the 1970's taken by a relative Arrington never met. The pictures are uniformly sunny and optimistic. Together they form a sort of dream vacation with all the rainy days and crummy hotels edited out.

The work of Jen Liu, *Super BAND JWS*, imagines a rock group that includes Jim Jones, David Bowie (as Ziggy Stardust) and Frank Lloyd Wright. The three members are connected in the artists view by their utopian fantasies. The piece includes several imaginary rock posters and a karaoke tape of the group's rendition of "Ziggy Stardust" sung in Esperanto.



Jen Liu, *Super BAND JWS*, 2003, video still

One *Must Know the Animals: Excerpts From The Great Book of Watching*, by Erin Cosgrove, is a video work that is a parable of good and evil under the auspices of a study of cats. Micol Hebron will present an unusual approach to autobiography in a video where actors of all shapes and sizes perform her autobiographical text.

D'Ette Nogle, whose work has been shown internationally, but never in New York, will participate with a work that

asks a group of recipients to wear jackets emblazoned with the names of female artists John Baldessari has supported and helped.

Jennifer Nelson has described her work as social choreography and as exercises for urbanity (i.e. getting in and out of a car). She will participate in the exhibition with a video and performance work. The performance, titled *A Guide to the Kinesthetic Understanding of News*, includes a lecture with choreographed movement and will take place during the **opening reception at 7 pm**.

In conjunction with *An Interest in Life*, John Baldessari and Meg Cranston will give a talk in the gallery on **Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm**. On **Saturday, February 8, 7pm** participating artist Jen Liu will organize a performance of several local bands. The original lyrics of their songs will be replaced by texts from Jim Jones' sermons, which tend to be faith-healing mixed with civil-rights inflected socialism.

*An Interest in Life* is supported in part by the Peter Norton Family Foundation and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

A color brochure containing an essay by the curators will be available free of charge. Please contact **apexart** for further information. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11-6.



Brienne Arrington, *Holiday*, 2003, 35 mm slide



Erin Cosgrove, *One Must Know the Animals: Excerpts From The Great Book of Watching*, 2003, narrative video, 7 min.

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