

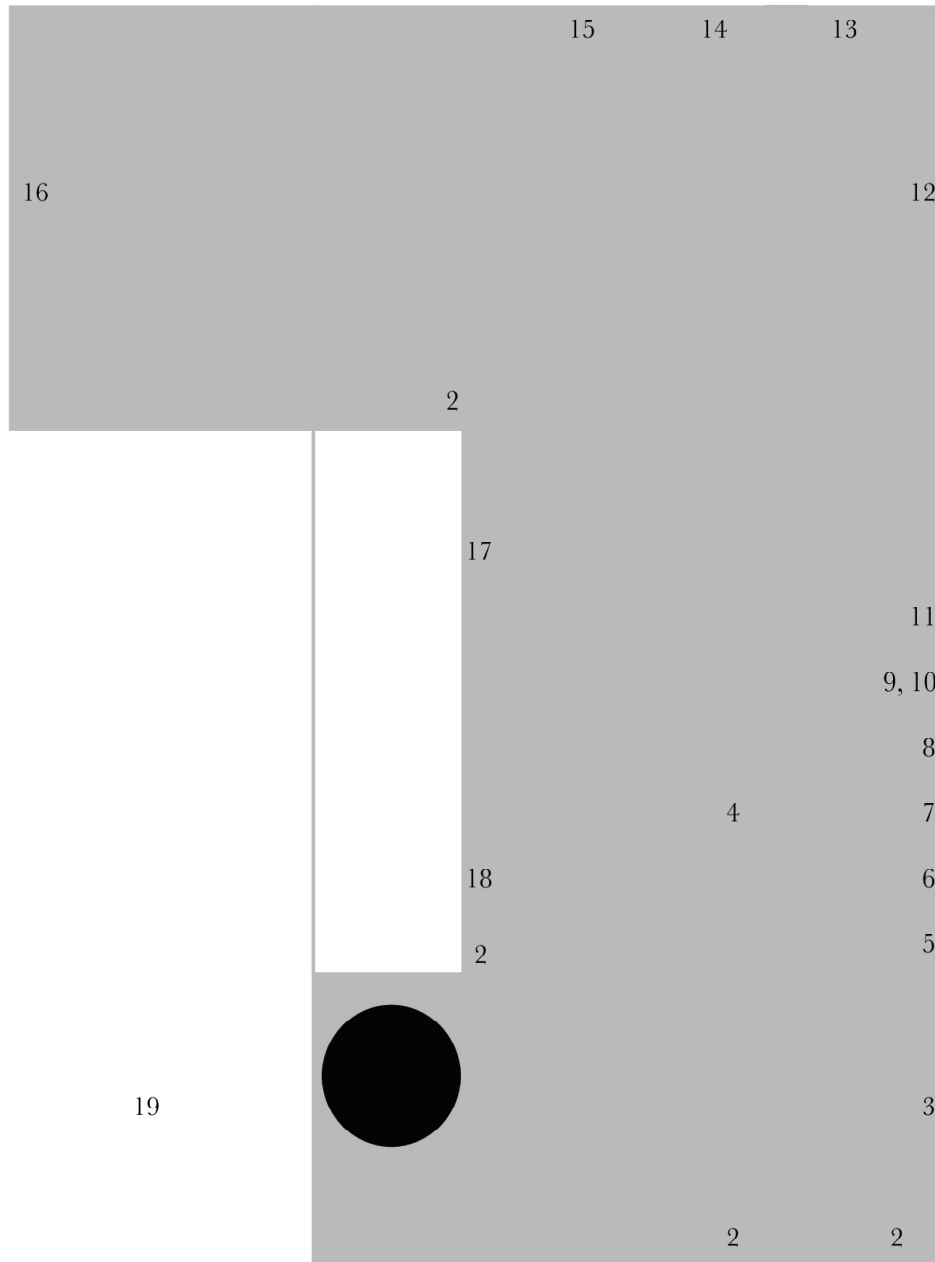


# *Which Witch is Which? and/or Summertime*

Organized by Ajay Kurian

November 6 – December 18, 2010

[www.whiteflagprojects.org](http://www.whiteflagprojects.org)



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

- 1- Tamar Halpern, *See No Evil*, 2010  
Inkjet print on vinyl, 154 x 154 inches  
Courtesy of the artist and D'amelio Terras, New York  
(exterior)
- 2- Darren Bader, *Friend*, 2010  
4 combs, 1.25 x 5 inches each  
Courtesy of the artist
- 3- Ajay Kurian, *A Mere Note (Rude Guests)*, 2010  
Vinyl wall text, plaster, acrylic, dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist
- 4- Tamar Halpern, *Untitled*, 2010  
Inkjet print on vinyl, 154 x 154 inches  
Courtesy of the artist and D'amelio Terras, New York
- 5- Leigh Ledare, *Untitled (Thea Westreich)*, 2008  
C-Print, 38 x 30 inches  
Collection of Ethan Wagner and Thea Westreich
- 6- Leigh Ledare, *Glossy*, 2008  
Silver Gelatin Print 13 x 9 inches  
Courtesy of the artist
- 7- Leigh Ledare, *Mom with Red Heels*, 2008  
C-print 22.375 x 14.875 inches  
Courtesy of the artist
- 8- Leigh Ledare, *Personal Commissions (10)*, 2008  
C-Prints, 20 x 14.25 inches each  
Courtesy of the artist
- 9- Leigh Ledare, *Mother Tied to Catch 22*, 2002  
C-print 35.25 x 23.5 inches  
Courtesy of the artist
- 10- Leigh Ledare, *Me and Mom on Bed*, 2006  
C-print, 15.5 x 23 inches  
Collection of Nicolas Guagnini
- 11- Leigh Ledare, *Living Room #1*, 2008  
C-Print 8.75 x 13.375 inches  
Courtesy of the artist
- 12- Liam Gillick, Douglas Gordon, Carsten Höller, Pierre Huyghe,  
Philippe Parreno, Rirkrit Tiravanija, *VICINATO 2*, 2000  
DVD, 11:30 minutes  
Courtesy of Air de Paris, Paris
- 13- Erin Shirreff, *Signature*, 2010  
Archival pigment print with fold, 23.5 x 32 inches  
Courtesy of Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York

14- Erin Shirreff, *Signature*, 2010  
Archival pigment print with fold, 23.5 x 32 inches  
Courtesy of Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York

15- Erin Shirreff, *Signature*, 2010  
Archival pigment print with fold, 23.5 x 32 inches  
Courtesy of Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York

16- Maria Petschnig, *Born To Perform*, 2009  
Silent Super 8 transfer, 20 minutes  
Courtesy of On Stellar Rays, New York

17- Michel Auder, *Talking Head*, 1981/Released 2009  
and *Confession*, 1970/ Released 2009  
SD videos, 2:28 and 3:40 minutes  
Courtesy of Newman Popiashvili, New York

18- Ajay Kurian, *Studio Visit #1: Auder and Kurian*, 2010  
Table, tape recorder, headphones, printed transcript  
Courtesy of the artist

19- Erin Shirreff, *Ansel Adams, RCA Building, circa 1940*, 2009  
Silent color HD video loop, 6:10 minutes  
Courtesy of Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York  
(library)

Dexter Sinister will produce three variations of a catalog to  
accompany the exhibition.

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

*Why is it that we – men and women both [...] – are prepared to accept the checks and rebuffs of the real, more and more rebuffs as time goes by, more humiliating each time, yet keep coming back? The answer: because we cannot do without the real thing, the real real thing; because without the real we die as if of thirst. - Diary of a Bad Year, J.M. Coetzee*

Perhaps our reality is defined by a constant nagging thirst, not necessarily life threatening, but enough to keep us moving. The real, the truly real, cannot but be colored by the fictions that circulate within it, making it impossible to be perfectly quenched. As children we are perhaps most aware of this flow: of make-believe's reality and the strangeness of the empirical. As we grow older, we often neutralize the world's strangeness, exchanging it for certainty. Most of the world, then, is left unaccounted for, undisturbed – settled.

This exhibition presents a series of productive interactions that orbit around thinking and re-thinking moments of decision and certainty. An interrogation of reality and fiction develops into the investigation of other binary codes more native to the visual arts, such as medium specificity, authorial voice, and distinctions between curatorial and the artistic practices. Michel Auder's two videos reflect on self-conscious and unconscious expression, directly effacing boundaries between the simulated and the real. Liam Gillick's collaborative video, which includes Rirkrit Tiravanija, Douglas Gordon, Carsten Höller, Pierre Huyghe, and Phillippe Parreno, addresses how art allows for a contradiction of unity that is comfortable with heterogeneity, divergences, contradictions, and nomadic wandering. Erin Shirreff and Tamar Halpern's works wipe away the modernist cobwebs of medium specificity; by resisting categorization, they provoke new questions that cannot be answered with the same old verbs. Darren Bader participates with nothing less than a relaxed Cheshire sensibility.

*Which Witch is Which?* is the title of Pat Hutchin's 1991 classic children's book about twin red-haired girls, dressed as near identical witches. As their story unfurls, the title's apparent question remains. This sense of doubling runs

throughout the exhibition, along with the sense that we are asking different questions that weaken Platonic strains. No more questions of essence, of what something is; instead, we ask which thought, which thing – comparative questions suggesting an interest with localities and particularities, questions that tackle the adverbial and the adjectival rather than the essential. The simple redressing of the world in verbs rather than nouns, however, is not the solution. More likely, this can call us towards a new questioning of what is essential, or what will truly quench our thirst, or what remains resistant, beyond quality, cut, and style. These are smaller questions for smaller, more curious spaces of thought. These are tighter rhythms and finer textures for keener ears and lighter hands.

We accord clean and simple names to concepts, but when reality gives them motion, alternating pages of black and white will eventually appear gray. What remains is the flicker of the real and the fictive, the self and the system, the curatorial and the artistic.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Michel Auder's** work has been included in exhibitions and screenings at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Krabbesholm, Skive, Denmark; ScheiblerMitte, Berlin; Newman Popiashvili Gallery, New York; and Cubitt, London. His work has been discussed in *E-Flux Journal* and *Frieze Magazine*. Auder is currently a faculty member at Yale University School of Art.

**Darren Bader's** exhibitions include shows with Gallery Sora, Tokyo; Pauline Gallery, Los Angeles; Eighth Veil, Los Angeles; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; MOCA, Los Angeles; White Space Gallery, London; and Taka Ishii Gallery, London. His work has been reviewed in the *New York Times* and *BOMBLOG*, among other publications. He earned his BFA from New York University in 2000. Bader lives and works in New York City.

**Tamar Halpern** earned her MFA at Columbia University, New York in 2005. Her solo exhibitions include Sculpture Center, New York; Office Baroque, Antwerp; Tony Wight Gallery, Chicago; and White Columns, New York. Halpern lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

**Ajay Kurian** is the organizer of Gresham's Ghost, an itinerant curatorial project based in New York. He inaugurated the project in 2008 with the show *SINGULAR FRIENDS: Heaving up on one another's shoulders*. Gresham's Ghost has received critical attention in *Art in America*, *Dossier* and *WHITEHOT MAGAZINE*. Kurian achieved his BA at Columbia University in 2006. As an artist he has participated in exhibitions at Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; The Guild Gallery, New York; and Harris-Lieberman, New York. Kurian lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

**Leigh Ledare** has held solo exhibitions with Rivington Arms, New York and Andrew Roth Gallery, New York. Ledare has participated in group shows nationally and internationally including the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; International Center of Photography, New York; Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; and David Zwirner Gallery, New York. He currently lives and works in New York City.

**Maria Petschnig** studied at the Royal College of Art, London and at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. Her solo exhibitions include Stadtturmalerie, Innsbruck, Austria; HQ, Brooklyn, New York; Hall, Brooklyn, New York; Galerie3, Klagenfurt, Austria; and \*) , Vienna, Austria. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; Austrian Cultural Forum, New York; Sculpture Center, New York; and Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France.

**Erin Shirreff's** one and two-person exhibitions include the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; and the Front Room, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri. Her group shows include *Greater New York*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Sculpture Center, New York. She received her MFA in 2005 at Yale University School of Art. Shirreff lives and works in New York City.

David Reinfurt and Stuart Bailey began their collaboration as **Dexter Sinister** in 2000. Reinfurt teaches at Columbia University and Rhode Island School of Design. Stuart Bailey is currently involved in projects at Parsons School of Design, New York and Pasadena Art Center, Los Angeles. Dexter Sinister has exhibited in the 2008 *Whitney Biennial*, New York; and the MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

**Liam Gillick's** solo exhibitions include the German Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; Corvi-Mora, London; Musée de Beaux-Arts, Besançon; Kunsthalle Zurich; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Casey Kaplan, New York; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

**Douglas Gordon's** work received the 1996 Turner Prize; the Premio 2000 at the Venice Biennial; and the Hugo Boss Prize. His exhibitions include the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Centro Cultural de Belém, Portugal; the DIA Center for the Arts, New York; Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland; and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Trento, Italy. Douglas Gordon lives and works in New York City.

Belgian-born **Carster Höller** lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden. Solo shows of his work have been held at the Ecole Supérieure d'Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Monaco, Monaco; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Gagosian, Beverly Hills; Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London; Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Marseille; and MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts, among others. Höller's work has been discussed in *ArtForum*, *Frieze Magazine*, *Numero*, *Art Review*, *Modern Painters* and *Flash Art*.

**Pierre Huyghe** has exhibited at the Tate Modern, London; ARC, Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France; Marian Goodman Gallery, New York; and the Guggenheim Museum, New York. He graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Graphiques et Décoratifs in 1985. His honors include a Special Award from the Jury of the Venice Biennial in 2001; and the Hugo Boss Prize, in 2002.

**Philippe Parreno** has been exhibited at Serpentine Gallery, London; Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich; Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Georges Pompidou, Beaubourg, France; Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; and Pilar Corrias, London. He lives and works in Paris.

**Rirkrit Tiravanija's** work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Malaga, Spain; Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; Drawing Center, New York; Serpentine Gallery, London; and Galeria Salvador Diaz, Madrid, Spain. He received the Hugo Boss Prize in 2004.

*What is magic? And/or DST: There is a theory and cruel (10 translations)*, an essay by exhibition organizer Ajay Kurian, is available upon request.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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White Flag Projects' interns are Taylor Crossland, Lindsay Donahue, Jill Firms, Grace Hong, Sarah Guittar, and Mel Trad.

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