

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pete Galindo / (310) 384-0224
pgalindo@federalartproject.net

The Search for the Visceral Realists

A new-genre experimental fiction project in exhibition format investigating a Latin American artist movement (1998-2002) obsessed with catastrophe, economic crisis, and creativity.

October 3 - November 14, 2009

Opening Reception: Sat, Oct. 3, 6pm-10pm
Closing Reception: Thurs, Nov. 12, 6pm-10pm

FEDERAL ART PROJECT and independent artist-curator YORK CHANG are pleased to present the first U.S. exhibition of the VISCERAL REALISTS, a Latin American artist collective active in Buenos Aires, Argentina between 1998-2002, during the 2001 economic crisis that gripped the region. A quixotic conceptual avant-gardist group with a radical anti-institutional bent, the Visceral Realists took their name from the nihilistic poetry movement in Roberto Bolano's acclaimed novel *The Savage Detectives*. Curator York Chang explores the group's systematic efforts to incite confrontation and disaster in a Latin American artworld caught in the midst of capitalist crisis, gauging the extent to which they reshaped the Argentine cultural landscape, and excavating the strange circumstances of the group's disappearance in 2002. The exhibition constructs itself as an investigation into the Visceral Realists' fractured history and their most prominent artistic actions, including the controversial abduction of a Barcelona curator in 1999, their prominent role in the implosion and cancellation of the 2000 São Paulo Biennale, and their own ultra-violent versions of Kaprow-esque "Happenings" called *Uprisings*.

The exhibition will feature a short documentary of the leading Visceral Realist Gustavo Raynal, and an extensive archive of Visceral Realist writings and artifacts, compiled after an exhaustive two-years of research and investigation in multiple countries. The exhibition also includes selected artworks by five of the most prominent members of the group, including sculptures by Desoto "Plastico" Madero that play with the tension between structural economic forces and free agency, and the illusion of choice; collage and sculpture by Guillermo Carnevale that reference his ideas on social Darwinism; ink drawings by Eugenia Paz that serve as a subtle internal critique of the more masochistic, anarchist tendencies of the group; and the installation of an abducted Los Angeles curator by the radical fundamentalist of the group, known only as El Vaquero. A 96 page color limited edition hard-bound publication will be unveiled on the occasion of this exhibition, including selected manifestos, documents, essays, interviews, and rare drawings taken from the now-defunct Visceral Realist magazine *The Journal of Implied Violence*.

(Continued)

On October 25, 2009, g727 *"Is Fiction is the New Reality"* between leading visceral realist Gustavo Raynal will be debating museum curator Nancy Spector, invited to appear by teleconference. They will be debating the role of fiction and social reality in contemporary art practices today, in a discussion asking the question "Is Fiction the New Reality."

On November 7, 2009, the Federal Art Project will be convening a workshop entitled *Self-Help Deaccessions: A How-To Guide* featuring a panel of artist-curator York Chang, and visceral realists Gustavo Raynal, Eugenia Paz, and De Soto "Plastico" Madero. They will be presenting strategies on how artists get their work acquired by museum collections, and importantly, key strategies on how artists get themselves thrown out of museum collections.

The closing reception on Thursday, November 12, 2009 coincides with the Visceral Realists' participation in MOCA's Engagement Party series, titled *Engagement Party Crashers*, where members of the public will be invited to participate in the removal of art from MOCA's walls.

316 W. 2nd St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 (310) 384-0224

Open: Weds – Sat, 12pm – 6pm

www.federalartproject.net

www.societyfortheproliferationofvisceralrealism.com

www.twitter.com/visceralrealist

Federal Art Project (FAP) draws inspiration and its moniker from the visual art arm of the New Deal's WPA Federal One program that employed and educated American artists from 1935-1943. FAP provides a space for experimental artist driven exhibitions and programming.

This new-genre event produced in creative collaboration with SARAH SHEWEY & PINK CLOUD EVENTS, an event production company producing events with other artist groups such as Fallen Fruit and Dublab.

###