

MEDIA RELEASE

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CHEMICAL CITY

Curated by Liutauras Psibilskis

September 8th through November 3, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 8th, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

MICHEL AUDER - HUBERT KRETZSCHMAR - MARIPOL - JONAS MEKAS - MICHAEL PORTNOY - AGATHE SNOW -
MARIANNE VITALE

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present Chemical City curated by Liutauras Psibilskis. The exhibition features several mediums that explore the creative climate of downtown Manhattan's urban cultures over the last 30 years. Each of the artists have produced specific pieces for the project. The opening will be marked by a performance by Michael Portnoy from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

The title refers to the fusion, permutation, and exchange of elements, concepts and thoughts that are inherent to New York. It is an aspect of the city that can be thought of as its chemistry. Chemical City gives us a glimpse of creativity and brings together generations of artists who have found their experiences and inspiration in New York's streets, music scene, and street cultures. Chemical City, like downtown Manhattan itself, is an experience revolving around combined elements brought together by the interaction of diverse forms of art. The featured artists open doors to reality and fantasy worlds that reflect the experience of living in downtown from the 70s to the present. The collection brings together highly respected artists who are regarded as the cornerstones for the downtown art scene and also younger artists who have become important contributors of the scene today.

Michel Auder shows a film based on footage he filmed in 1977 of a walk with legendary artist, poet and actor Taylor Mead on Christopher Street in New York. New photographic pieces by Auder will be also shown in the exhibition. For the first time Jonas Mekas will show a video film based on a footage filmed in 1990 as he walked through Soho and Lower East Side, giving us an informal tour of the city along with his Frozen Film Frames. Marianne Vitale's work consists of crude oil drawings and paintings on silk, and an architectural structure built with found materials, reflecting elements of the metropolitan living experience, inspired by energy of life on the Lower East Side. Maripol will feature new selection Polaroids of legendary art and pop personalities in the 80s. Hubert Kreschmar has been closely involved both with music and art scenes of the city, his collages from 1988 will be shown in the exhibition. Previously unreleased footage by Agathe Snow documents the 2005 dance marathon art event she organized at Ground Zero, featuring an unprecedented gathering of more than 200 downtown Manhattan residents for a 24-hour dance-a-thon. Interested in games and human behavioral patterns, Michael Portnoy offers a new edition of his game table that debuted at the 2007 Moscow Biennale. This work reflects Fluxus strategies and, and to a larger extent, the ideas of play in the city and society as a whole.

Liutauras Psibilskis is a New York based independent exhibition curator and writer who holds a MA in Visual Culture from Goldsmiths College, University of London. He writes for Artforum International and has curated numerous exhibitions in museums around the world including Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Monash Museum of Modern Art and Australian Center for Contemporary Art. Melbourne, Helmhaus. Zurich, BAK. Utrecht, the Netherlands. For the 2005 Venice Biennale he curated the celebrated Jonas Mekas retrospective in the Lithuanian Pavilion that was awarded a Special Mention for extraordinary presentation of a contemporary classic artist. His upcoming projects include a film and video screening program for Tate Modern, London and an international performance and moving image project at Miami Beach Cinematheque for the upcoming Art Basel Miami Beach.

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.