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Gallery Opening hours:
12 - 17:30 Friday to Sunday
or by appointment

PRESS RELEASE

Jesse Bercowetz - "It ate and drank until unborn - spoke in terms the world would never know"

Thursday September 10th – Sunday October 4th 2009

Private View: Thursday September 10th, 2009 6pm - 9pm

Alma Enterprises Gallery is proud to present "It ate and drank until unborn - spoke in terms the world would never know", a solo show by New York artist Jesse Bercowetz.

A newly commissioned piece, Bercowetz's work will manifest itself as the result of a process of collaboration and dialogue. Taking Alma's new manifesto into account Bercowetz has created the work in his New York studio according to plans of the space and an ongoing dialogue with the curators. The installation has then been constructed in London by Alma Enterprises according to a loose set of guidelines; the resulting work attains an important performative element utilizing the spirit of mail art and collaboration.

Bercowetz says of the project: " The work will embody Alma Enterprises' manifesto of site-specificity while presenting the viewer with a collage of themes that are of the moment: political, cultural and personal, enticing and challenging the viewer to explore beyond their threshold of comfort by examining the highly detailed themes embedded into hanging elements and the textured surface of the piece.

The images come from my personal archives: drawings, sketches, poems, travel photos, appropriated images of war, fashion, occult, political prisoners, cartoons, missing children... (a sample of the things that I am concerned with). I have taken these snips of charged issues and pasted them into a kinetic collage resembling a chandelier or a jelly fish. It becomes an abstraction with many stories, subplots and moments for the viewer to engage with following their own path through the installation. Find a portal, dead end or impale an eyeball."

"The aspects of things that are most important for us are hidden because of their simplicity and familiarity. (One is unable to notice something because it is always before one's eyes.) The real foundations of his enquiry do not strike a man at all." Wittgenstein

A Limited edition artist book with a hand sanded cover accompanies the exhibition.

A special thanks to Suzanne Goldenberg, Derek Eller Gallery and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

For more information please contact info@almaenterprises.com/07769 686 826

Biography

Jesse Bercowetz graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago. He was awarded a Jerome Fellowship and is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Grant. His work has been reviewed in the New York Times, Teme Celeste, The New Yorker, and Art Forum. Selected exhibitions include: The Brooklyn Museum, NY, The Drawing Center, NY, White Columns, NY, PS1 / MoMA, NY, Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin, The Happy Lion, Los Angeles and Derek Eller Gallery, NY. He recently presented a new large-scale sculpture in the exhibition Next Wave At The Brooklyn Academy of Music, curated by Dan Cameron. There will be exhibitions of his collaborative work at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA and The Headlands Center for Art, Sausalito, CA in 2009. Bercowetz lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Thomas Micchelli on Bercowetz's work:

"...The volatile forms of Jesse Bercowetz's art—from room-size installations to handheld objects, done solo or in collaboration—throb with personal obsessions hauled from the flickering corners of his mind's eye, gathered into inchoate physicality and then fashioned through trial and error into material metaphor: a "darkness visible," as Milton wrote of the fires of hell, but not one that serves "only to discover sights of woe."

"These images are instead riddled with absurdist ambiguities, swinging from nihilism to hilarity as dramatically as they shift in physical scale and appearance. Their bulked-up, unwieldy shapes, stuck together with d.i.y. cable and epoxy, are dredged from the heavy-metal precipitates of science fiction, religious cults, Saturday morning cartoons and the sweep of art history. Components are combined and lopped off, colors change, mass-media images are pasted on only to be torn off or painted over, and entire structures are routinely demolished..."

http://www.almaenterprises.com/current_show.html

For press images please contact: info@almaenterprises.com