



For Immediate Release
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OCTET: SELECTED WORK FROM THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

August 12 – October 4, 2009
Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation Pera Museum
Istanbul, Turkey

“**Octet: Selected Work from the School of Visual Arts**” is an exhibition of work by faculty, alumni and students from the BFA Fine Arts Department at the School of Visual Arts (SVA). Organized by SVA and curated by Department Chair **Suzanne Anker** and faculty member **Peter Hristoff**, “Octet” includes approximately 100 works by over 60 artists, offering a wide-ranging survey of current trends and issues in contemporary art. The exhibition will be on view at the **Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation Pera Museum** in Istanbul, Turkey from August 12 – October 4, 2009.

The selected works reflect the preponderance of available influences in a global, media-driven society, where technology allows for instantaneous transmission of culture and access to an enormous data bank of shared images and ideas. Suzanne Anker explains, “In our global world where the familiar can seem foreign and the foreign sometimes overtly familiar, borders have become exceedingly porous between cultures and communities. ‘Octet’ presents an amalgam of stylistic concerns as a way to present the dynamic flow of advancing patterns within the visual arts.”

“As historical dialogues permeate present thought, our educational imperatives combine traditional genres with more experimental investigations,” explains Anker of her role in training artists. “It is within this context of developing the new from the profound influences of the past, that each generation defines for itself the parameters of its conceptual and material base.”

As each generation defines the kinds of questions that come to the fore, a myriad of issues are worthy of investigation. Reflecting the multi-generational roster of participating artists, “Octet” is divided into eight thematic sections: **Word and Image; Identity and Identity Politics; Post Pop Art and Tabloid Culture; The Corporeal and Divine; Material Matters; Narrative Imperatives; World Dramas; and Relational Aesthetics.**

Artists in the exhibition include: BFA Fine Arts Department alumni **Andrés Basurto Portillo** (2003), **Joseph Bennett** (2008), **Daniel John Gadd** (2009) and **Elif Uras** (2001); current students **Felipe Garcia**, **Joshua Allen Harris** and **Steven Vega**; and faculty members **Lynda Benglis**, **Stephen Ellis**, **Judith Linhares**, **Lucio Pozzi**, **Jeanne Silverthorne** and **Tim Rollins**. A complete list of artists is attached.

A bilingual, fully-illustrated catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition with contributions by Suzanne Anker and Peter Hristoff and a forward by SVA President David Rhodes.

Following the presentation in Istanbul, "Octet: Selected Work from the School of Visual Arts" will be on view in New York City at SVA's **Visual Arts Gallery** from November 24 – December 23, 2009.

The Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation Pera Museum and the Visual Arts Gallery presentations of "Octet" have been supported by the following institutions: the Turkish Culture and Tourism Office in New York, The American Turkish Society, the Moon and Stars Project and the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul.

With a faculty of approximately 100 active artists, critics and curators, a distinguished roster of guest lecturers and various exhibition opportunities, the **BFA Fine Arts Department at SVA** offers direct and multifaceted engagement with the largest art community in the world. From coursework in anatomy, figure drawing and color theory, to interdisciplinary workshops in digital and photo-based media, the curriculum provides the broadest possible means of expression.

Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation Pera Museum in Istanbul, Turkey is the first cultural initiative of the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation, which was founded by the Kıraç Family to lead projects in the fields of culture, arts and science; the Pera Museum was established in early June 2005. The Museum is part of the Foundation's overall goal of developing cultural activities. As part of this initiative, the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation undertook the renovation of an historic building constructed in 1893, the rehabbed butter-colored curlicue structure just nearby the famous Pera Palas Hotel that was built to serve passengers arriving from Europe on the posh Orient Express. Equipped with modern and state-of-the-art features, the Pera Museum has evolved into one of the most important culture and arts venues of the city Istanbul. The Museum's permanent collections have been endowed by the Kıraç Family, their private unique collections including: Orientalist Paintings, Kütahya Tiles and Ceramics and Anatolian Weights and Measures; these collections have expanded through acquisitions and donations. The first and second floors of the Pera Museum are dedicated to these three permanent collections. Since its inauguration, the Museum has hosted a series of national and international temporary exhibitions, most of which were a first in Turkey and the Museum continues to host yearly four to five exceptional exhibitions. One of the Museum's main missions is to celebrate a wide range of art disciplines. Until now the Museum's repertoire of temporary exhibitions has cherished and

exhibited the works by masters such as Jean Dubuffet, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Otto Mauer, Rembrandt, Niko Pirosmeni, Josef Koudelka and Joan Miro; Pera Museum has also collaborated with internationally renowned collections like FNAC and FRAC's of France, JP Morgan Chase, Tate Britain and the Victoria and Albert Museum; also presenting the works of Lewis, Reynolds, Roberts, Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Chagall, Warhol, Haring, Basquiat, Gilbert & George, Sherman, Beuys, Koons and other acclaimed artists.

School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City is an established leader and innovator in the education of artists. From its inception in 1947, the faculty has been comprised of professionals working in the arts and art-related fields. SVA provides an environment that nurtures creativity, inventiveness and experimentation, enabling students to develop a strong sense of identity and a clear direction of purpose.

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Suzanne Anker
Shinsuke Aso
Perry Bard
Andrea Belag
Lynda Benglis
Joseph Bennett
John von Bergen
Elaine Breiger
Nancy Chunn
Shoshana Dentz
Stephen Ellis
Daniel John Gadd
Felipe Garcia
Frank Gillette
Andrew Ginzel
Erik S. Guzman
Joshua Allen Harris
Lynn Herring
Roman Hrab
Peter Hristoff
Shirley Irons
Evan Izer
Suzanne Joelson
Tobi Kahn
Dennis Kardon
Nils Karsten
Brooke L. Larsen
Marilyn Lerner
Judith Linhares
Sakura Maku
Judy Mannarino
Melissa Meyer
Amelia Midori Miller
Steve Miller
Stephen Mueller
John Newman
Jiro Nishiyama
Soner Ön
Joel Perlman
Andrés Basurto Portillo
Lucio Pozzi
Gunars Prande
Dominick Rapone
Eric Rhein
Ira Richer
Kenny Rivero
Tim Rollins and K.O.S.
Taney Roniger
Kara L. Rooney

Aura Rosenberg
Frank Roth
Henry G. Sanchez
David Sandlin
Christopher Saucedo
Jo Shane
Gary Sherman
Jeanne Silverthorne
Elena Sisto
Joseph Tekippe
Panayiotis Terzis
Nicolas Touron
Elif Uras
Sara Varon
Steven Vega
Amy Wilson
Charles Yoder