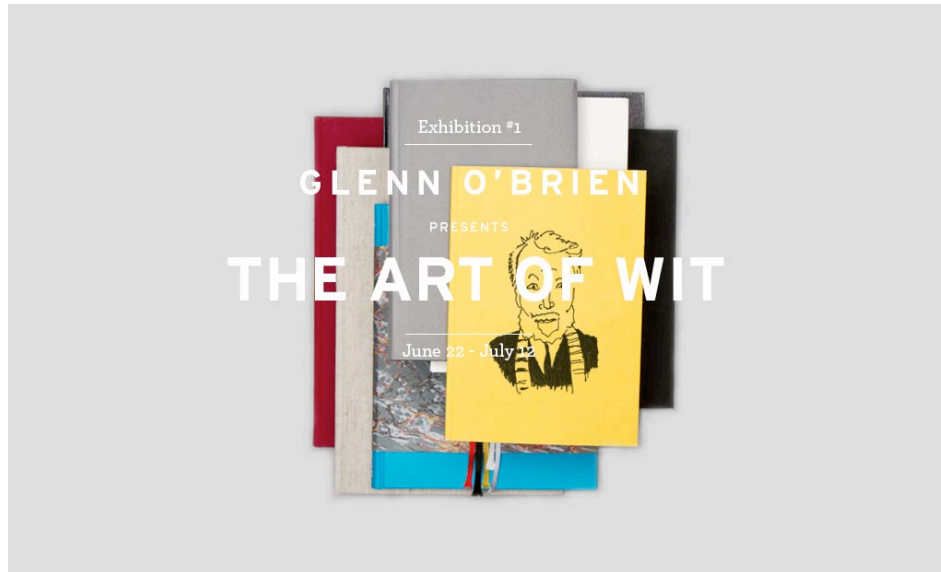


Paddle8—a new destination for presenting and acquiring contemporary artworks—presents



Exhibition #01

WIT

Curated by Glenn O'Brien

June 22 – July 12

Featuring Works By

Donald Baechler, Joe Brainard, Stefan Brüggemann, Jessica Craig-Martin, Dan Colen, Jean-Phillippe Delhomme, Robert Hawkins, Jonathan Horowitz, Ray Johnson, Stephen Lack, Wes Lang, Hanna Liden, McDermott & McGough, Adam McEwen, Jeff Mermelstein, Marilyn Minter, Daniel Newman, Gary Panter, Richard Prince, Rob Pruitt, Walter Robinson, Tom Sachs, and Laurie Simmons.

Paddle8, a new destination for presenting and acquiring fine artworks, launches its new series of guest-curated exhibitions. Opening globally on June 22nd, *WIT* presents an examination of the humor in contemporary art as curated by the acclaimed writer, critic, editor, film, and television producer, Glenn O'Brien. The inaugural exhibition will follow the newly established Paddle8 model of presenting available artworks contextualized by original editorial, photo, and video. Paddle8 provides visitors from the member collector to the browsing art enthusiast with an enriched viewing experience. Viewers will have the opportunity to experience fine artworks exhibited in *WIT* at their own pace, free from the constraints of time and geography, from June 22nd – July 12th, by visiting www.paddle8.com.

“Wit is understanding, intelligence. In Old English witt = knowledge. It is the power to perceive analogies, and relationships between incongruous ideas. It is the ultimate non-violent weapon, and the whoopee cushion on the throne. Wit was the daemon of Socrates, and the muse of satire on the

ancient stage, and today it remains the most significant means of intellectual initiation. Wit is the great catalyst of unprecedented combinations.

As civilization enters its post-civilized phase, being funny, once the job of the servant class – jesters, clowns, fools – has become more and more the job of fine artists. As culture fragments into subcultures, and as wealth and power are reallocated, there is still a place for broad comedy, but we now require luxury forms of humor that provide the elite with comedy they can own, with speculative jokes. The artist possessed of wit holds the passkey to the billionaires' locker room.

Today we see the emergence of a haute schtick that combines the palliative efficacy of, say, Milton Berle with the consumer exclusivity of, say, Joan Mitchell or a Kelly Bag. We can combine the feel-good accessibility of a Henny Youngman with the impressive prices of an Andrew Wyeth.

But seriously, folks, funny is the new serious. With romanticism all but discredited and the sublime unavailable until further notice, art as wit has stepped in to fill the void. Modernism has always been, at its essence, something that you have to 'get.' Today's elites are almost entirely demarcated by symbolism. It's insider meaning-trading. You need the passcode to enter the club. In a nominally democratic society, cultural initiation is how society is apportioned into groups of shared sensibility.

Wit is surprise and revelation. Initially we may not know exactly why we are laughing, but the fierce baring of our teeth, the involuntary rhythms of our diaphragms and the howls that may occur spontaneously present living proof of the power of wit to rearrange the world."

– Glenn O'Brien

WIT CURATOR

Glenn O'Brien, inextricably woven into the fabric of downtown Manhattan since the epic 80s has been at the forefront of the New York art scene. Andy Warhol gave him his first job as assistant editor at *Interview*, soon after which he soon took the helm as editor. He then started *TV Party*, a television program that featured artistic antics of guests like Mick Jones, David Byrne, Debbie Harry, James Chance, Iggy Pop, Steven Meisel, Jean-Michel Basquiat and many others. Writing and editing have always been core to Glenn - with clientele ranging from Barney's to Calvin Klein, as well as editing *SEX* by Madonna. Most recently, he has published *How to be a Man* with, an irreverent book that aims to save half the population from degradation by giving them tips on how to dress, how to insult someone, how to drink and most importantly, how to buy art. His celebrated collection includes works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Robert Hawkins, Ray Johnson, Christopher Wool, Tom Sachs and many others. He has had the unique experience of writing catalogue essays and doing several book collaborations with several of these pivotal contemporary artists.

Curator Glenn O'Brien states, "Today the body politic is controlled by electronic media that dictate to the populace their proper areas of interest and concern through advertising, sport, fashion, gossip, comedy, drama, news, politics — especially as it penetrates the world of gossip and advertising — and humor. It is left to the artist to provide alternatives to the elite-controlled media machinery responsible for dumbing down the electorate."



PADDLE8'S EXHIBITION SERIES

A wide range of mediums and price points are represented in each exhibition. While Paddle8 membership is required to view prices and acquire works, viewers around the world will have the ability to view the works and learn more about each artwork through Paddle8's unique content-rich dossiers. Each dossier gives context to a specific work in the exhibition through extant and original content drawn from sources closest to the work including the artists themselves. For each exhibition, Paddle8 commissions a series of photographic portfolios and short films that takes users into the artists's studio.

WIT's dossier pages will feature original films of artists in their studios, including Laurie Simmons, Adam McEwen, and Gary Panter.

As part of the Paddle8 exhibition model, the global premier of *WIT* will be preceded by a series of bulletins beginning June 8th and featuring daily calendar bit of videos, writings, photos and other cultural ephemera related to the artists, featured works and curators themselves.

The curator following *WIT* is acclaimed music journalist and photography critic Vince Aletti.

ABOUT PADDLE8

Paddle8 is a new destination for examining, understanding and acquiring contemporary artworks. Paddle8 brings guest-curated exhibitions of contemporary art accompanied by in-depth editorial content to a dynamic collecting community. Paddle8's member services offer collectors and galleries a global community where artworks are presented and acquired through eased transactions. For more information please visit www.paddle8.com.

TO APPLY

Paddle8 members are selected through online application or by invitation for the purpose of creating a trusted arts community.

Applications are available online at www.paddle8.com and are reviewed regularly.

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