

For Immediate Release.

Deep Comedy

Curated by Dan Graham

With Sylvia Chivaranond

June 25- July 30, 2008

Opening reception: *Wednesday, June 25, 6-8 pm*

Marian Goodman Gallery is pleased to announce our summer exhibition, *Deep Comedy*, curated by Dan Graham with Sylvia Chivaranond, which will be on view from Wednesday, June 25th through July 30th.

Deep Comedy brings together artists whose work transforms elements of the commonplace into playgrounds of amusement through a wide range of media including sculpture, video, installation, photography, and elements of performance. Through work by **John Baldessari** (United States), **Vija Celmins** (United States, b. Latvia) **Fischli & Weiss** (Switzerland), **Isa Genzken** (Germany), **Jef Geys** (Belgium), **Rodney Graham** (Canada), **Christian Jankowski** (Germany), **Allen Ruppersberg** (United States), **Julia Scher** (United States), **Roman Signer** (Switzerland), **Michael Smith & Joshua White** (United States), **William Wegman** (United States), and **John Wesley** (United States), traditional modes of viewing are questioned via unexpected forms of delivery and display. As a reflection of our society, the artists in *Deep Comedy* bear witness and are borne out of the saturated media-based culture in which we reside. For these artists, whose conceptual practice is underpinned by humor and whose work embraces the oxymoronic nature of comedy, critiques of current socio-political and artistic institutions, though serious, take the form of playful and absurd gestures in which banality and irreverence occasion the deepest unhindered laughter.

Dan Graham believes that most of his favorite art involves subversion through humor: *“The use of dead-pan, ironic humor in the work of my two favorite Pop artists was a big influence on my work. My magazine page insertion “Side Effects/ Common Drugs” (1966) was influenced by Lichtenstein, whereas my “Star of David” (1996) and “Yin/Yang” (1997/2002) pavilions were*

influenced by the 'mock' monuments using parody by Oldenburg. I chose the artists and work because I am a big fan. Many of them are at the top of their game." -- Dan Graham

An earlier version of *Deep Comedy* was presented at Ballroom in Marfa, Texas in Spring/Summer 2007.

Dan Graham's work will be the subject of a major U.S. retrospective opening in February 2009 at MoCA Los Angeles and touring to the Whitney Museum of American Art (June 2009), and the Walker Art Center (Fall 2009). In conjunction with the Whitney venue in the summer of 2009, he will present a collaborative project of five pavilions in the New York Botanical Garden. In 2000-2001 Graham's work was featured in a major European retrospective survey for which an accompanying catalogue raisonne, *Dan Graham: Works 1965-2000* was published by Richter Verlag. The exhibition opened at Museu de Arte Contemporanea de Serralves, Porto, and travelled to Paris, Otterloo, Helsinki, and Düsseldorf. His work has been included in countless international group exhibitions including the Venice Biennale 2005 and 2003; Documenta VII, IX, and X in Kassel, and Skulptur Projekte '87 and '97, Münster.

Sylvia Chivaranond is an independent curator and consultant. Her projects have included exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and 2003 Venice Biennale, among others. On occasion she has been known to alternate between laughter and bellowing cries.

Please join us at the opening reception on Wednesday, June 25th from 6-8 pm.

The gallery is open Monday - Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm. During July summer hours will be Monday-Friday, 10 am – 6 pm.

For further information, please contact the gallery at: 212 977 7160.