Whitney Museum Independent Study Program to present On Limits: Estrangement in the Everyday


On Limits: Estrangement in the Everyday features works by Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Francis Alÿs, Hannah Black, Merlin Carpenter, Enrique Chagoya, Kevin Jerome Evers, Claire Fontaine, Harun Farocki, Toril Johannessen, William E. Jones, Barbara Kruger, An-My Lê, William Leavitt, Yolanda López, Tracey Moffatt, Catherine Opie, Claire Pentecost, William Raban, Allan Sekula, Jason Simon, A.L. Steiner, Milica Tomić, and Taocheng Wang. The exhibition hours are Tuesday–Friday, 12–6 pm; Saturday, 11–6 pm. Admission is free. The opening reception will take place on Tuesday, May 24, from 5 pm to 8 pm.

On Limits considers the many ways in which artists and artworks address contradictions in day-to-day reality, whether in an explicitly political register or in more subtle, even satirical, modes that acknowledge an uneasy complicity with the dominant order. By examining the ways in which we are estranged from others, the exhibition questions the limits placed on our ability to imagine alternative forms of social organization in the face of catastrophic threats.

Rather than settle narrowly on a coherent theme or single issue, this experimental exhibition expands the perspectives and positions—mediated by more than twenty artworks—presented within the psychic and
material space of the gallery, reaching beyond the limits of any one conceptual paradigm, consistent style, contemporary consensus, or clear narrative. This strategy allows particular themes—from social reproduction to queerness or the environment—to be highlighted momentarily in correspondences between artworks that, for example, work with language, or the documentary mode; works that use the form of the advertisement, calling out to the viewer; works that play on presence and absence, or expose techniques of capture or surveillance; works that probe the cultural notion of waste or decay; and still others that survey the body, under siege, at work, on the run, and online.

Under the ideological sway of neoliberalism’s relentless accumulation of capital, which reinforces the divisive status quo, we must think collectively—beyond the limits of thematic, regional, or categorical models—to see connections between exclusionary effects and oppression of all kinds and to produce solidarity through means other than fear.

**Public Programs**

Silvia Federici
The Kitchen  
Friday, May 27
2 pm

Silvia Federici will discuss the recent work of women in indigenous struggles for land, resources, and political recognition, and against corporate and patriarchal forms of domination.

Seating is limited and reservations are required; please register in advance by contacting Publicprograms.isp.2016@gmail.com

Kevin Jerome Everson: *Park Lanes*
The Whitney Museum  
Floor 3, Susan and John Hess Family Theater  
Friday, June 3
10:45 am
Free with museum admission

*Park Lanes* (2015; 480 min) transposes the space of cinema to the factory floor, documenting the highly mediated and abstracted movements of its laborers across a full eight-hour day of work, in real time. The title of the film refers to the name of the bowling alley Everson used to frequent in his hometown of Mansfield, Ohio.

An-My Lê and Jason Simon: *Against the Grain*
The Whitney Museum  
Floor 3, Susan and John Hess Family Theater  
Friday, June 3
7:30 pm
Free admission

This panel invites two artists from *On Limits* to introduce their photography-based works on view at The Kitchen and to examine the role of the documentary form as a critical or conceptual strategy within contemporary art. A discussion with the ISP curatorial fellows will position these practices in relation to the preceding screening of Kevin Jerome Everson’s *Park Lanes* and will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Tracey Moffatt: *Montages*
The Kitchen  
Friday, June 10
2 pm and 4 pm

Two screenings of the full series of Moffatt’s *Montages* will accompany the regular showing of *Other* (2010; 7 min.) in the exhibition. In the series, Moffatt and her editor, Gary Hillberg, transform Hollywood studio films into stylishly subversive “hymns to cinema.” Created over the course of a decade, the videos

**Exhibition Support**

*On Limits: Estrangement in the Everyday* is a collaboration between the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program and The Kitchen. Curatorial Participants of the ISP are designated as Helena Rubinstein Fellows in recognition of the long-standing support of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation.

Support for the Independent Study Program is provided by Margaret Morgan and Wesley Phoa, The Capital Group Charitable Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and the Whitney Contemporaries through their annual Art Party Benefit.

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**About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

**Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

- **June Leaf: Thought Is Infinite** – Through July 17, 2016
- **Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney’s Collection** – Through Feb 12, 2017
- **Mirror Cells** – Through Aug 21, 2016
- **Stuart Davis: In Full Swing** – June 10–Sept 25, 2016
- **Sophia Al-Maria** – July 26–Oct 31, 2016
- **Carmen Herrera** – Sept 16, 2016–Jan 2, 2017
- **Whitney Biennial** – Spring 2017
- **David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night** – Spring 2018

The Whitney Museum is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm, closed Tuesday (in July and August the Museum will open on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 6 pm). Adult tickets: $22; full-time students and visitors 65 & over: $18; visitors 18 and under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. As of June 10, same-day adult admission tickets will be $25; advance tickets purchased via whitney.org will remain $22 for adults and be discounted to $17 for full-time students and visitors 65 & over (same-day tickets are not available on whitney.org). For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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