

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
whitney.org/press

Tel. (212) 570-3633
Fax (212) 570-4169
pressoffice@whitney.org

Press Release

Contact:
Whitney Museum of American Art
Stephen Soba, Leily Solemani
212-570-3633

WHITNEY TO PRESENT *ELAD LASSRY: THREE FILMS*



Elad Lassry, still from *Zebra and Woman*, 2008. Super 16mm film, color, silent; 5:21 minutes.
Image courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles.

New York, January 2, 2009 – This winter, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents the first solo New York museum exhibition of the work of Elad Lassry, a Los Angeles–based artist who works in photography and film. Curated by senior curatorial assistant Gary Carrion–Murayari, *Elad Lassry: Three Films* opens January 22, in the second–floor Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery.

Lassry’s images – derived from portraiture, advertising, and nature photography – investigate the way the meaning of a picture can shift in different social or historical contexts. Often drawing on pre-existing source material, his work explores such fluctuations of meaning in images of remarkable visual clarity and precision. Deliberately projected on a small scale, these three films, shot in either 16mm or Super 16mm, reveal the picture as a dynamic, changing object.

Untitled (Agon) (2008) captures two dancers performing a *pas de deux* from choreographer George Balanchine’s 1957 ballet *Agon*. Basing his camera placement on an instructional diagram from dancer and choreographer Doris Humphrey’s 1958 book *The Art of Making Dances*, Lassry investigates the way the camera reframes and transforms the dance. By

using fixed camera positions and a predetermined structure, Lassry draws on American Structural film of the 1960s and 1970s.

In *Untitled* (2008), Lassry restages a photograph from a 1971 science textbook in which a group of young people sit on an optical illusion of a house to illustrate perception. Lassry bypasses the image's original use and instead focuses on the individual models, turning the image into a psychological portrait.

Zebra and Woman (2007) alternates its focus from the body of a zebra to the face of a woman. Through slow, deliberate camera movements, Lassry captures both surfaces in exacting detail to highlight the psychological gap between them and explore the transformative potential of portraiture. By focusing on surfaces and histories of the objects and individuals he captures, Lassry asks us to reassess our perception of even the most quotidian images.

About the Artist

Lassry (b. 1977) received a BFA in both Film and Studio Art from the California Institute of the Arts in 2003, and an MFA in Studio Art from the University of Southern California in 2007. His first solo exhibition was at Cherry and Martin in Los Angeles in 2007. His work is included in such public collections as the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and The Israel Museum. His work was on view this fall at the Art Institute of Chicago and he is currently participating in the 2008 California Biennial. *Elad Lassry: Three Films* is his first New York museum exhibition.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945

Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

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

“Progress”	Through January 4, 2009
Between the Still and Moving Image	Through January 4, 2009
Corin Hewitt: Seed Stage	Through January 4, 2009
Signs of the Time	Through January 11, 2009
Alex Bag	Opens January 9, 2009
Artists Making Photographs	Opens January 16, 2009
Synthetic	Opens January 22, 2009
Elad Lassry: Three Films	Opens January 22, 2009
William Eggleston	Through January 25, 2009
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	Through February 15, 2009
Sites	Opens February 19, 2009
Jenny Holzer	March 12, 2009-May 31, 2009
Dan Graham: Beyond	Opens June 25, 2009

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$15 for adults; Members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students free. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6-9 pm. For information, please call 212-570-3600 or visit whitney.org.