

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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Alex Bag, *Coven Services*, 2004, Video, 14 minutes, 35 seconds
Courtesy the artist and Elizabeth Dee, New York

WHITNEY TO PRESENT NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION BY ALEX BAG, ON VIEW FROM JANUARY 9

NEW YORK, November 24, 2008 -- For her first solo museum presentation, Alex Bag debuts a newly commissioned video installation she has made for the Whitney Museum of American Art, inspired by a popular and progressive 1970s children's syndicated television show, "The Patchwork Family." Continuing the commentary on contemporary media culture that has characterized her work to date, Bag re-imagines the earlier TV show, in a darkly satiric vein, peopling her studio audience with real-life children. The children are regaled by – and react to – the show's special guests, an assortment of characters including an abstract artist, an animal wrangler, a wizard, a psycho-pharmacologist, and others. The work goes on view in the Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz Lobby Gallery beginning January 9, 2009.

In the 1970s, "The Patchwork Family," like the earlier 1960s WPIX-TV show "The Carol Corbett Show," featured Bag's mother as the hostess, sitting behind a desk with a puppet, interviewing guests and singing songs. Bag herself appeared as a guest on "The Patchwork Family" at a very young age. In the artist's current version, she plays the role of the hostess in a satirical take on the chipper, optimistic 70s prototype, now prone to depression and a darker world view, colored by Bag's own mordant vision and complete with commercial breaks. Bag also uses footage from the original show, moving back and forth in time.

About the Artist

Alex Bag is well known for her work in video. She was born in 1969 in New York City, and currently lives and works in New Jersey. She received her BFA from Cooper Union. Her work has been shown at P.S. 1, the Tate, the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Museum of Modern Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and other spaces internationally. She has performed at The Knitting Factory and lectured at Yale, Parsons, Cal Arts, and the Getty Research Institute. This is her first solo museum show.

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
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