

# WHITNEY Independent Study Program

Whitney Museum of American Art  
Independent Study Program  
100 Lafayette Street, 5th floor  
New York, NY 10013  
[www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org)

Tel. (212) 431-1737  
Fax (212) 431-1783

PRESS RELEASE

## FOR REASONS OF STATE

Presented by Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program  
at The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, New York, NY 10011

May 16 – June 7, 2008

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Bik van der Pol

Jenny Holzer

The Bureau of Inverse Technology (Agents Natalie Jeremijenko and Kate Rich)

Mark Lombardi

Lin + Lam

Julia Meltzer and David Thorne

Trevor Paglen

Ben Rubin

Susan Schuppli

### OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, May 16, 2008, 5–8 pm

NEW YORK, April 29, 2008 -- *For Reasons of State*, this year's annual spring exhibition of the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program, will be presented from May 16 to June 7, 2008, at The Kitchen, 512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The exhibition features artists who explore issues of public access to information in American society, focusing on the availability of knowledge to the general public and the censorship or misrepresentation that results from governmental and/or corporate influence.

Artworks by Bik van der Pol, the Bureau of Inverse Technology, Jenny Holzer, Lin + Lam, Mark Lombardi, Julia Meltzer and David Thorne, Trevor Paglen, Ben Rubin, and Susan Schuppli prompt viewers to consider exchanging the frequently deployed

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phrase "need-to-know" with the more democratic "right-to-know." Foreshadowing the upcoming presidential election, this exhibition addresses the ability of citizens to function as a democracy in the face of governmental secrecy.

This exhibition is curated by Angelique Campens, Erica Cooke, and Steven Lam, the 2007-08 Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellows of the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program.

## FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

### PANEL DISCUSSION

*See Something, Say Something: Strategies of Counter-Surveillance*  
with Karen Beckman, Peter Galison, Thomas Y. Levin, and Lin + Lam  
moderated by Yates McKee

Saturday, May 31, 5 pm

Free

At The Kitchen

512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10011

### GALLERY TALKS with the curators

Saturday, May 24, 2 pm, Free

Saturday, June 7, 2 pm, Free

### GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 12–6 pm

Saturday 11–6 pm

Admission to the gallery is free.

For more information, please call Erica Cooke: (646) 286-8082 or Steven Lam: (917) 671-8035 or visit [www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org)

### PUBLICATION:

Yale University Press will distribute the publication "For Reasons of State" with essays by the curators as well as an interview with Peter Galison and Robb Moss, co-directors of the 2008 documentary *Secrecy*.

ISBN: 978-0-300-14694-3

More information: <http://yalepress.yale.edu/>

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Founded 40 years ago as an innovative, alternative approach to the education of young artists, curators, art historians and critics, the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program is now widely known and highly respected in both the art and academic communities in the U.S. and throughout the world. The program provides a unique setting for the critical study of the diverse practices, discourses and institutions that constitute the fields of artistic and cultural production.

The Independent Study Program is supported in part by Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo; The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, Inc.; the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc.; The Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund of the New York Community Trust; the Easton Foundation; and the Whitney Contemporaries of the Whitney Museum of American Art. Endowment support is provided by the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc.; The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, Inc.; the Rubinstein Foundation; and George S. Harris.