

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art

PRESS RELEASE

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AN EXPANDED LINE-UP OF PERFORMANCES FOR WHITNEY'S FRIDAY-EVENING SOUNDCHECK SERIES DURING 2004 BIENNIAL

The Whitney's SoundCheck series – an occasion for crowds to gather at the Museum from 6 to 9 pm on select Friday evenings, when the Museum's atmosphere shifts into a more relaxed mode, and admission is pay-what-you-wish – will feature an expanded line-up of events during the 2004 Biennial. All the evenings throughout the run of the 2004 Biennial highlight Biennial artists in performance.

At a moment of profound change in our cultural landscape, the 2004 Biennial will explore the latest aesthetic tendencies in works reflecting a reinvigoration of contemporary American art by 108 American artists and collaborative teams. The Biennial will be on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art from March 11 to May 30. Information on performances, film and video screenings, public programs, and the Biennial as a whole is available in the Biennial program guide or online at www.whitney.org.

Started during the 2002 Biennial and taking place on select Friday evenings throughout the year, the innovative SoundCheck series brings art and music together at the Whitney. Originated and organized by Debra Singer, one of the Biennial's three curators and associate curator of contemporary art at the Whitney, SoundCheck unites artists and musicians to perform and play music at the Museum, sometimes featuring readings from some of the literary world's rising stars.

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2004 BIENNIAL SOUNDCHECK PERFORMANCES

Friday, March 12 at 7 pm DJ Dave Muller and Los Super Elegantes

Visual artist Dave Muller will be DJ for the evening, offering a blend of musical genres that range from reggae to electronica, rock 'n' roll to house, especially focusing on underappreciated, should-have-been-a-classic songs. Los Angeles-based Los Super Elegantes, the collaborative team of Martiniano Lopez Crozet and Milena Muzquiz, will also perform their 15-minute tour de force "Fla and Flu," treating audiences to their humorous and raucous version of the classic male-female cabaret duo, mixing between-song banter with musical send-ups of rock and pop styles from all over the globe.

Friday, March 19 at 7 pm
BEIGE presents:
jamie arcangel and the arcangels
the 8bit construction set
paul b. davis
cory arcangel

Using traditional musical instruments and machines derived from obsolete computers and video games, Cory Arcangel and his collaborative group BEIGE perform in a musical style they call "video-game rock music." Arcangel and other BEIGE members will engage in a DJ-battle using records made from Commodore 64 and Atari computer sounds and homemade music videos.

Friday, March 26 at 7 pm
Tracy and the Plastics

Tracy and the Plastics is a low-fi, art punk band from Washington, consisting of Tracy, Nikki, and Cola. All three are alter egos of Wynne Greenwood, who assumes the role of bandleader Tracy; Nikki and Cola are present only as video projections. The electronic keyboard and drum-machine music is complemented by the offbeat interactions between Tracy and her virtual band members.

Friday, April 23 at 7 pm
Jim O'Rourke

Jim O'Rourke is a prolific figure in the world of experimental music, known since the late 1980s for his solo work in noise, improvisation, jazz, and rock, as well as in industrial and electronic music. He is also a frequent collaborator with bands such as Sonic Youth, Gastr Del Sol, and Wilco, and with figures such as Tony Conrad and Derek Bailey.

Friday, May 7 at 7 pm
Antony of Antony & the Johnsons

Singer-songwriter Antony of Antony & the Johnsons performs a solo evening featuring songs from his upcoming CD, which will be released in the fall. With an ethereal, androgynous-sounding voice and mesmerizing stage presence, Antony creates empathic, emotional ballads about love, pain, death, and cultural alienation that are as mysteriously redemptive as they are tragic. His lyrical, narrative songs reveal the musical influence of figures such as Nina Simone, Divine, and Otis Redding. (The Knabe piano is courtesy of PianoPiano, New York.)

SoundCheck is free with pay-what-you-wish admission to the Museum, on Fridays from 6 to 9 pm. Performances take place in the Museum's Lower Lobby; the Museum's other floors remain open for viewing. Doors open at 6 pm; performances begin at 7 pm. Reservations are neither accepted nor required.

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 widely regarded as the preeminent collection of 20th-century American art and includes the entire artistic estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Arshile Gorky, 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, gauges the state of contemporary art in America today.

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

New Additions: Prints Through April 2004
Inside Out: Portrait Photographs Through May 23, 2004
2004 Biennial March 11-May 30, 2004

The 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. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org.

Current Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:
Luis Gispert Through March 12, 2004
Architecture by Numbers March 25-July 2, 2004