

# WHITNEY

## Press Release

Whitney Museum of American Art  
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
[whitney.org/press](http://whitney.org/press)

Contacts: Stephen Soba, Molly Gross  
Tel. (212) 570-3633  
[pressoffice@whitney.org](mailto:pressoffice@whitney.org)

### THE WHITNEY PRESENTS *MORE THAN THAT:* *FILMS BY KEVIN JEROME EVERSON*

April 28–September 18, 2011



Kevin Jerome Everson (b. 1965), production still from *The Equestrians*, 2011. Super 8 film, color and black-and-white, silent; 12 minutes. Courtesy the artist and Picture Palace Pictures.

**NEW YORK, March 31, 2011** – This spring, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents *More Than That: Films by Kevin Jerome Everson*, on view from April 28 to September 18, 2011. The exhibition is curated by Chrissie Iles, the Whitney’s Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz Curator.

Kevin Jerome Everson works in film, painting, sculpture, and photography. His filmic fables, the focus of this exhibition, articulate the profound within the ordinariness of everyday life. Everson, who was born in the working-class community of Mansfield, Ohio, depicts details in the lives of

people living and working in similar American communities: a mechanic repairing an old car in a backyard, a black beauty queen in a segregated pageant, men boxing, snowplow operators in winter, young men walking into a courtroom, the aftermath of a murder. As Monica McTighe, an assistant professor of art history at Tufts, has written: “In the context of the films of Kevin Jerome Everson, these quotidian activities reverberate across history, and across social and cultural boundaries. The films highlight these unremarkable activities so that they are seen against the background of the social, economic, and even weather systems that shape contemporary lives. Despite their simple and straightforward subject matter, these films always allude to the complex networks woven from histories, objects, and material, social, and economic relationships.”

Some of Everson’s films are constructed from appropriated news and film footage, uncovering forgotten details of African-American life in the 1960s and ‘70s. Independent curator Katrin Mundt notes, “Everson’s treatment of this material—often with only minimal audio or visual adjustments—virtually encourages the images to testify against themselves.” In other films, the artist explores the waxing and waning of a community’s sense of itself and the migration of black people from the South to the North in order to find work. Everson, whose work was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial, approaches race, sexuality, and economic circumstances with a poetic yet unflinching eye. Adopting the stance of an observer, his interest in labor has both a political and a formal aspect, exploring the relationship between the human body and the materiality of the labor it performs as both an expression of class and identity, and as a performative gesture.

### **About the Artist**

Kevin Jerome Everson (b.1965) received his MFA from Ohio University and a BFA from the University of Akron. He is currently an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Everson has received fellowships from the Guggenheim, NEA, NEH, Ohio Arts Council, and the Virginia Museum, an American Academy Rome Prize, grants from Creative Capital and the Mid-Atlantic, residencies at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Yaddo, and MacDowell Colony, and numerous university fellowships.

Everson has made five features and over seventy short-form films. His film *Emergency Needs* (2007) was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. His photographs, paintings, sculptures, and films have been exhibited internationally at museums and art institutions including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; REDCAT, Los Angeles; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Wurttenbergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; Hallwalls

Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo, New York; and others. His films have also screened at various international festivals, including Sundance, Rotterdam, the AFI Film Festival (Los Angeles), Ann Arbor, and Toronto.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 18,000 works by more than 2,800 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is moving forward with a new building project, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground will be broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

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

<b>Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time</b>	Through April 10, 2011
<b>Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection</b>	Through May 1, 2011
<b>Glenn Ligon: AMERICA</b>	Through June 5, 2011
<b>Dianna Molzan: Bologna Meissen</b>	Opens April 8, 2011
<b>More Than That: Films by Kevin Jerome Everson</b>	April 28–September 18, 2011
<b>Breaking Ground: The Whitney's Founding Collection</b>	April 28–September 18, 2011
<b>Cory Arcangel: Pro Tools</b>	May 26–September 11, 2011
<b>Lyonel Feininger: At the Edge of the World</b>	June 30–October 16, 2011
<b>Singular Visions</b>	Through November 2011

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, 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. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$12. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only: \$6. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).*

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