

# WHITNEY

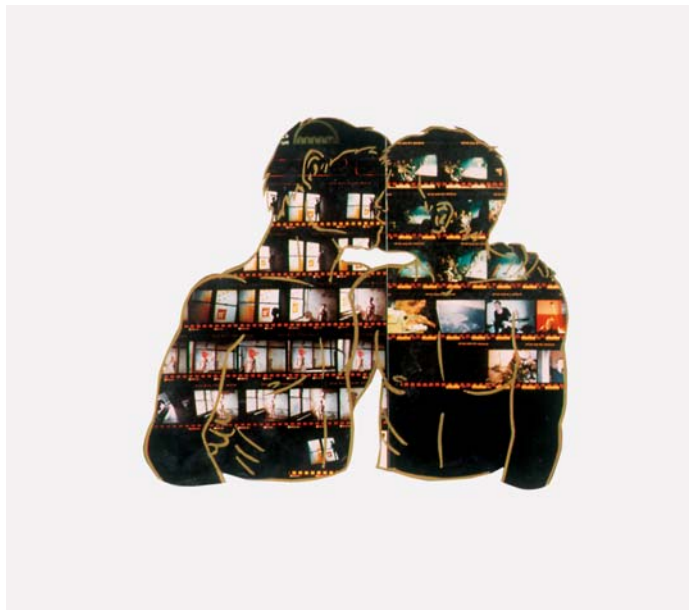
Whitney Museum of American Art  
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
whitney.org/press

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

## Press Release

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

### ***A FEW FRAMES: PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE CONTACT SHEET*** **OPENS AT THE WHITNEY** **September 25, 2009–January 3, 2010**



David Wojnarowicz (1954–92), *Untitled*, 1988. Synthetic polymer on two chromogenic prints, 11 x 13 1/4 in. (27.9 x 33.7 cm).  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the  
Photography Committee 95.88. Courtesy of The Estate of David Wojnarowicz and  
P.P.O.W. Gallery, New York, NY

New York, September 24, 2009 — In this selection of works drawn principally from the Whitney's permanent collection, the repetitive image of the proof sheet is the leitmotif in a variety of works spanning the range of the museum's photography collection, including the works of Paul McCarthy, Robert Frank, Ed Ruscha, and Andy Warhol. The exhibition is co-curated by Elisabeth Sussman, Whitney Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography, and Tina Kukielski, Senior Curatorial Assistant. *A Few Frames* opens on September 25, 2009 in the Sondra Gilman Gallery and runs through January 3, 2010.

Decisions about which photograph to exhibit or print are frequently the end result of an editing process in which the artist views all of the exposures he or she has made on a contact sheet—a photographic proof showing strips or series of film negatives—and then selects individual frames to print or enlarge. Repetition, seriality, and sequencing—inherited from the contact sheet—are evident in all of the works on view. As co-curator Tina Kukielski notes, “this presentation includes a variety of photographs that build on the formal, thematic, and technical logic of the editing process.”

The exhibition includes photo-based works from sixteen featured artists in the Whitney’s collection. The work of David Wojnarowicz and Paul McCarthy present the contact sheet as a work of art, while those of artists such as Andy Warhol, Harold Edgerton, and Robert Frank play with its repeating forms. Other works call to mind the format of the contact sheet, such as Bernd and Hilla Becher’s typological study of industrial water towers and Silvia Kolbowski’s grid of appropriated images of female fashion models.

Works by contemporary artists such as Rachel Harrison and Collier Schorr in their continued interest in the contact sheet, despite perhaps growing trends toward digital photography, reveal the residual and sustained effects of this process.

### **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 and Coosje van Bruggen, 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:**

Dan Graham: Beyond	Through October 11, 2009
Georgia O'Keeffe: Abstraction	Through January 17, 2010
A Few Frames: Photography and the Contact Sheet	Through January 3, 2010
Steve Wolfe on Paper	September 30, 2009–November 29, 2009
Roni Horn aka Roni Horn	November 6, 2009–January 24, 2010
Alice Guy Blaché: Cinema Pioneer	November 6, 2009–January 24, 2010

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 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org)