

# 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

### THE FEELIES TO KICK OFF A SERIES OF INDIE-ROCK CONCERTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS AS PART OF DAN GRAHAM RETROSPECTIVE AT THE WHITNEY

*Featuring Vivian Girls, Woods, Titus Andronicus, Abe Vigoda, Japanther, Glenn Branca, Charles Atlas, and more*



These Are Powers. Photo: Maxyme G. Delisle

NEW YORK, June 8, 2009 – Five indie-rock concerts, two artists' talks, a film screening, and a punk-rock family program are being presented as part of *Dan Graham: Beyond*, the retrospective of the pioneering artist opening June 25 at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Among the highlights is a rare acoustic performance by The Feelies on Friday, June 26, at 7pm, and four concerts on Friday evenings in July, each celebrating Graham's love of rebellious, underground rock music. These concerts will spill out of the Lower Gallery into the Sculpture Court and feature a cross-section of raucous young post-punk, psych-pop, no wave, and shoegaze bands, the heirs of New York's art-rock scene, including Vivian Girls, Titus Andronicus, and Abe Vigoda. More information follows below and is available at whitney.org.

Although Graham has been a central figure in contemporary art since the 1960s, this is his first American retrospective. It traces the evolution of the artist's work from early conceptual projects and performances to his films and videos, sculptures, architectural projects and pavilions, as well as his groundbreaking collaborations with musicians and bands such as Sonic Youth and Japanther.

For the exhibition's programs, guest programmer/artist Howie Chen was invited to interpret Graham's work in a series of events under the title "My Turn." Chen approaches Graham's art through musicians, filmmakers, and performers to provide a new and insightful look at the artist. In addition to The Feelies performance (June 26), events include a conversation between Dan Graham and Glenn Branca (Sept 12); a screening of *Put Blood in the Music*, a rock-doc on the downtown music scene of the 80s, introduced by filmmaker Charles Atlas (Sept 17); and a roundtable symposium (Oct 1). Chen is co-founder of the curatorial partnership Dispatch and a member of the collaborative New Humans.

**Following is the line-up of Dan Graham-related events; all events take place at the Whitney Museum, 945 Madison Avenue, unless otherwise noted.**

**Acoustic Evening with The Feelies, part of the "My Turn" series**

Friday, June 26 at 7 pm

The Feelies, one of the most influential rock bands of the past three decades, play a rare acoustic set. This performance presents the group's legendary complex guitar layering, driving rhythms, and drone passages.

Free with Museum admission (free for Whitney members). Tickets for this concert are available day of show only, beginning at 1 pm at the Museum. Space is limited; tickets are first-come, first-served.

**Whitney Live: Four Friday Evening Concerts in July**

Whitney Live is free with Museum admission (free for Whitney members). Note: Space is limited and admission is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Titus Andronicus / Real Estate**

Friday, July 10 at 7 pm

Titus Andronicus are from Glen Rock, New Jersey, and take their name from the Shakespearean tragedy. Their sound is punk-infused Replacements-esque pop music with screaming vocals, layered guitars, and songs about suburban malaise. [myspace.com/titusandronicus](http://myspace.com/titusandronicus)

Real Estate, led by singer/guitarist Martin Courtney, also has roots in the Garden State. Their songs evoke visions of tract housing, basement band practice, and wasted youth, mixing languid psychedelia, muted vocals, and a boomy undertow of drums. [myspace.com/letsrockthebeach](http://myspace.com/letsrockthebeach)

**Abe Vigoda / Grooms**

Friday, July 17 at 7 pm

Part of the LA scene centered around The Smell, Abe Vigoda emerges from a shared background of punk, no wave, and pop. Alternating from melodic and tropical to hardnosed and heavy, Abe Vigoda's

sound is equal parts Beefheart and My Bloody Valentine with a haunting pulse and a DIY attitude all its own. [myspace.com/abevigoda](http://myspace.com/abevigoda)

Grooms are Travis Johnson, Emily Ambruso, and Gabriel Wurzel, three friends who play a structurally-mutilated brand of noise-pop featuring blissful interplay, sonic experimentation, and song destruction. Recordings have showcased sounds from broken noise-surf to campfire-seance drone. Grooms (formerly The Muggabears) continue to craft songs filled with beauty, gloom, and irony-free whimsy. [myspace.com/groomstheband](http://myspace.com/groomstheband)

### **Woods / YellowFever**

Friday, July 24 at 7 pm

Woods is a Brooklyn-based psych-rock band known for upbeat folk jams awash in odd studio effects, cracked fuzz, and unique vocalizations. Members Jeremy Earl, Jarvis Taveniere, and G. Lucas Crane use an idiosyncratic songwriting style to create road worn, windblown, and deeply grooved soundscapes. [myspace.com/woodsfamilyband](http://myspace.com/woodsfamilyband)

Hailing from Austin, Texas, the trio YellowFever play minimal art pop that dips into waters that Young Marble Giants, Stereolab, and 80s Rough Trade bands also explored. Formed in the summer of 2006, YellowFever's pedigree includes shared members with the band Vixtrot and tour dates alongside Thee Oh Sees, Ponytail, Ecstatic Sunshine, and HEALTH. [myspace.com/yellerfever](http://myspace.com/yellerfever)

### **Vivian Girls / These Are Powers**

Friday, July 31 at 7 pm

Although the Vivian Girls have only been a band for a short while, their charms have already worked magic on the road to "out of nowhere" status. Mixing 60's girl-group sounds, punk, and shoegaze, Vivian Girls -- Ali Koehler (drums), Kickball Katy (bass) and Cassie Ramone (guitar, lead vocals) -- make gritty, lo-fi, aggressively fun pop tunes. [myspace.com/viviangirlsnyc](http://myspace.com/viviangirlsnyc)

These Are Powers are a Brooklyn- and Chicago-based trio featuring Anna Barie (vocals, electronics), Pat Noecker (prepared bass, vocals), and Bill Salas (electroacoustic drums, vocals). Pummeling their way through live performances, These Are Powers use club beats, found sounds, pulses, and blips, to create a chaotic collage of vibrations. [myspace.com/thesearepowers](http://myspace.com/thesearepowers)

### **Talks and Film Screening:**

#### **Dan Graham in Conversation with Glenn Branca, part of the "My Turn" series**

Saturday, September 12 at 7 pm

Dan Graham joins avant-garde composer and musician Glenn Branca for a conversation about past collaborations, rock music, and shared interests working in New York City. This evening also includes a screening of *Westkunst (Modern Period): Dan Graham Segment* (1980) by Dan Graham and Ernst Mitzka.

This program will take place at X Initiative, 548 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is a free event. No reservations. Space is limited; first-come, first-seated.

#### ***Put Blood in the Music*, part of the "My Turn" series**

Thursday, September 17 at 7 pm

Introduction by director Charles Atlas

This is a rare U.S. screening of *Put Blood in the Music* (1989), a documentary on the late 1980s downtown New York music scene, featuring early performances by Sonic Youth, John Zorn, Hugo Largo, and Ambitious Lovers and appearances by Dan Graham, Glenn Branca, Karen Finley and others. Experimental filmmaker, video artist, and director Charles Atlas will introduce his film.

This program will take place at X Initiative, 548 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is a free event. No reservations. Space is limited; first-come, first-seated.

**Beyond *Dan Graham: Beyond*, part of the "My Turn" series**

Thursday, October 1 at 7 pm

Scholars, critics, and artists join Dan Graham for a roundtable conversation about his inimitable contributions to performance, music, and architecture.

Admission is \$8; \$6 for senior citizens and students; free for Whitney members. Tickets available at [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).

**Family Program**

**WhitneyKids Punk Rock!**

Saturday, July 11 from 1 to 4 pm

Families are invited to explore the interactive sculptures of artist Dan Graham through his sources of inspiration—from punk rock to cartoons. Enjoy a performance of *Rock and Roll Ice Cream* by Japanther, innovative punk band and collaborators with Graham, as well as animated film screenings and gallery activities. For families with kids ages 6–12. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$10 per family (free for Whitney member families). A family ticket is valid for up to 2 adults; children under 12 always receive free admission. \$5 admission for additional adults. Purchase tickets in advance online at [whitney.org/family](http://whitney.org/family). Tickets will also be available the day of the event.

*Dan Graham: Beyond* is the latest in a trio of collaborations between the Whitney and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, following *Gordon Matta-Clark: You Are the Measure* and *Lawrence Weiner: As Far As the Eye Can See*. Each exhibition celebrates the work of a major figure who emerged onto the American art scene in the 1960s. Following its presentation at the Whitney (June 25–October 11, 2009), the exhibition travels to the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (October 31, 2009–January 31, 2010). The exhibition is co-curated by Chrissie Iles, the Whitney's Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Curator, and Bennett Simpson, MOCA associate curator. MY TURN events guest programmed by Howie Chen. WHITNEY LIVE events organized by the Whitney's performing arts coordinator, Emily Krell.

*Dan Graham: Beyond* is organized by The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, in collaboration with the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

*Dan Graham: Beyond* is presented by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. The exhibition is made possible through endowment support from the Sydney Irmas Exhibition Endowment. Major support is provided by The Suzanne M. Nora Johnson and David G. Johnson Foundation. Generous additional support is provided by Hauser & Wirth Zürich London; Marian Goodman Gallery, New York and Paris; The MOCA Contemporaries; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts; Mary and Robert Looker; the Pasadena Art Alliance; Betye Monell Burton; Peter Gelles and Eve Steele Gelles; John Morace and Tom Kennedy; Eileen and Michael Cohen; Bagley and Virginia Wright; and Marieluise Hessel.

Additional support for the Whitney's presentation is provided by Eileen and Michael Cohen.

Media Sponsor ELLE DECOR in partnership with Persol

**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:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Oldenburg/van Bruggen</b>            | <b>Through September 6, 2009</b>           |
| <b>Sadie Benning: Play Pause</b>        | <b>Through September 20, 2009</b>          |
| <b>Photoconceptualism, 1966-73</b>      | <b>Through September 20, 2009</b>          |
| <b>Dan Graham: Beyond</b>               | <b>June 25, 2009 – October 11, 2009</b>    |
| <b>Georgia O'Keeffe: Abstraction</b>    | <b>September 17, 2009-January 17, 2010</b> |
| <b>Roni Horn aka Roni Horn</b>          | <b>November 6, 2009-January 24, 2010</b>   |
| <b>Alice Guy Blaché: Cinema Pioneer</b> | <b>November 6, 2009-January 24, 2010</b>   |

*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](http://whitney.org)*