

WHITNEY

Press Release

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July 2005

WHITNEY TO PRESENT NEW WORK BY RAYMOND PETTIBON

On view October 8, 2005 through February 19, 2006



Raymond Pettibon, still from a new animation piece, 2005
Courtesy Regen Projects, Los Angeles

From October 8, 2005 through February 19, 2006, the Whitney Museum of American Art debuts the latest commissioned project by Raymond Pettibon, recipient of the 2004 Bucksbaum Award. Incorporating a new animation -- only the second that the artist has developed -- and a group of selected drawings, the exhibition spotlights both the long term aspect of Pettibon's influence since his appearance on the international art scene in the 1980s, and his ongoing effect on contemporary artists. The exhibition, *Raymond Pettibon: Untitled*, is organized by Shamim M. Momin, Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Branch Director and Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria.

Raymond Pettibon's obsessive, prolific drawings pull freely from an extraordinary range of sources: music, politics, religion, art history, sex, sports, movies, and comic books, among others. Often modest in form, rendered with a loose, expressive virtuosity of line, and usually employing lyrically

ambiguous texts, Pettibon's work is generally characterized by a profuse output of monochromatic graphic-style drawings done in ink on paper, sometimes mixed with crayon, pencil, or watercolor.

Pettibon's style has become even more fluid and all-encompassing of late, resulting in his most recent room-size wall drawings and installations, such as his work in the 2004 Biennial. The thematic range of these works is increasingly topical, addressing current political concerns. Never purely ironic, Pettibon's work continues to explore a human need for belief without positing a singular answer.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1957 in Tucson, Arizona, Raymond Pettibon received his B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. He currently lives and works in Hermosa Beach, California, and has exhibited his work in numerous solo exhibitions including Contemporary Fine Art, Berlin, Germany; David Zwirner, New York, NY; Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA; The Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England; Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Drawing Center, New York, NY; and Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan. Pettibon is also the recipient of the 2004 Bucksbaum Award, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; the 2001 Wolfgang-Hahn-Prize, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany; and the 1991 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Awards in Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Photography, and Craft Media.

THE BUCKSBAUM AWARD

During the 2004 Biennial, the third Bucksbaum Award was conferred on Raymond Pettibon for his work *Title on the Line*. Past awards have been given to Irit Batsry (2002) and Paul Pfeiffer (2000). Endowed by trustee Melva Bucksbaum and her family, the Bucksbaum Award is given by the Whitney to an outstanding artist chosen from among those in the Biennial. It includes a grant of \$100,000, and an exhibition at the Whitney. The fourth Bucksbaum Award will be presented in conjunction with the 2006 Biennial, opening at the Whitney on March 2, 2006.

ABOUT THE CATALOGUE

Created in conjunction with his one-artist exhibition at the Whitney, Raymond Pettibon's book of new drawings pulls from his decades of involvement with artist's books, zines, and other ephemeral visual media.

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 the preeminent collection of 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 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, has become a measure of the state of contemporary art in America today.