

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Suite 124, Box 124
401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3A8
T 416.591.0357 F 416.591.0358
info@prefix.ca www.prefix.ca
Photo Magazine. Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.
Reference Library. Small Press. Travelling Shows.

PREFIX.

For Immediate Release (June 8, 2007)

A PORTRAIT OF TORONTO'S ART SCENE IN 25 SECONDS

(Toronto) - In celebration of summer, **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art** is pleased to present the world premiere of *25sec.–Toronto*, by Berlin artists **Angelika Middendorf & Andreas Schimanski**. Curated and commissioned by Toronto curator **Rhonda Corvese**, this dual-projection installation presents a portrait of contemporary art production from the various perspectives of members of Toronto's arts community.

Shot in Toronto during a four-week artists' residency at the Drake Hotel, Middendorf & Schimanski, in collaboration with the curator, invited participants, who reflect a cross-section of local arts and cultural workers, to prepare a 25-second response to the question, "**What are your professional goals and thoughts in relation to Toronto and the art world in general?**" Participants included artists, writers, critics, institutional and independent curators, gallerists, administrators and art historians.

In fifty-seven 25-second testimonials, the work captures the diverse perspectives, desires and approaches of some of the individuals who help to shape the Toronto art scene. It creates an opportunity for a wider exchange of ideas by directly articulating the unique visions and shared hopes of cultural workers and participants. Andrea Carson, art critic and founder of the View On Canadian Art (VOCA) blog describes the project as, "a video postcard - wherever it travels, viewers will be offered a glimpse into what comprises Toronto's art world." Some of the invited participants who contributed statements include such prominent figures as **Philip Monk, Luis Jacob, Diane Borsato, Kenneth Montague and Barbara Fischer**.

In 2003, Middendorf & Schimanski's interest in researching and contextualizing the art scene in Berlin led to the first *25sec.* project. *25sec.–Toronto* is the second installment within an expanding roster of metropolitan cities that includes Ekaterinburg, Russia and Taipei, Taiwan. Ultimately, all *25sec.* projects will be exhibited together as a travelling international postcard that will highlight the common threads and diversity among artists worldwide. *25sec.–Berlin* will also be on display throughout the exhibition at Prefix. For more information please visit www.25sec.net.

Official Hotel Sponsor



The Sutton Place Hotel

Supported by



torontodartsbouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto

An opening reception and summer party for *25sec.–Toronto*, featuring an exciting array of summer treats, will be held on Thursday, June 21 from 7 to 10 PM at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, located at 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. An after-party will be held from 10 PM till closing at the Drake Hotel located at 1150 Queen Street West, Toronto. The artists and curator will be present. The exhibition continues until July 28, 2007. Admission is free. This event is concurrent with the reception for *Sales Performance*, an exhibition of nine new performance-based videos by Toronto artists.

About the Artists:

Since 1996 Angelika Middendorf and Andreas Schimanski have collaborated on a number of projects, such as *25sec.–Berlin* at loop-raum für aktuelle kunst/guestroom in Berlin (2003); *One Fine Day* in Berlin and Sydney, Australia (2002); *Lecture-Lounge Vol.01 + 02* at P.S.1/Clocktower Gallery in New York (2001). Collaborative shows also include *DiaLog-In*, Pavillon der Volksbühne, Berlin (1997);

INTROGROUP of Pavillon der Volksbühne at SocialSpacesBerlin, HybridWorkSpace, and Documenta X, Kassel (1997); *levels#1/ P.O.P – Punkt.Ort. Position (P.O.P – Point.Location.Position)* at Gallery parkhaus Berlin (2001); *Time Based* at Gesellschaft für aktuelle Kunst in Bremen (2003) and *Vokietjos Video Menas* at the Goethe Institute Inter Nationes in Vilnius, Lithuania (2004).

Angelika Middendorf is a conceptual and media artist based in Berlin, Germany. Her work has been presented in numerous international solo and group shows including: *Looping Space* at Brandenburgischer Kunstverein in Potsdam (2005) and *Des Ball ist rund - Kreis, Kugel, Kosmos/The ball is round - Circle, Sphere, Cosmos* at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin (2006). Middendorf, in collaboration with Andreas Schimanski, was awarded a residency at P.S.1 in New York from 2000-01.

Andreas Schimanski is a video and installation artist based in Berlin, Germany. His work has been presented in numerous international solo and group shows including: *Ortsbegehung 10* at the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein in Berlin (2004); and *Vokietjos Video Menas* at the Goethe Institut Inter Nations, in Vilnius, Lithuania (2003). Schimanski is the recipient of the German Art Award of Artistic Photography (1996) and the Bremer Advancement Award for Fine Arts (1996). Andreas Schimanski is represented by loop raum für aktuelle kunst in Berlin, Germany.

Rhonda Corvese is a Toronto-based independent curator. Her curatorial projects include: *Nuit Blanche*, curator - Zone A (2007); *The Legacy of Joseph Wagenbach*, a site-specific installation by Iris Häussler; and *The Idea of North*, a sound art exhibition in Norway, Iceland and Halifax (2005-06).

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a public art gallery and art publishing house based in Toronto. A registered charitable organization, Prefix fosters the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital art. Prefix acknowledges the support of our Official Catering Sponsor, à la Carte Kitchen, and our Official Hotel Sponsor, the Sutton Place Hotel. Lastly, Prefix acknowledges the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council.

The artists and curator acknowledge the generous support of the Drake Hotel A.I.R. program, the Goethe-Institut Toronto, the Ontario College of Art and Design, and Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art for their enthusiastic commitment to this project. Rhonda Corvese would like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts' Grants to Professional Independent Critics and Curators program.

For more information, print-ready images, or to schedule an interview, please contact Heather Haynes, T: 416-898-9007 E: publicist@prefix.ca