

HANS HAACKÉ
IN CONVERSATION WITH NORMAN KLEIN AND
STEPHANIE BARRON

February 10, 2009
8:30 pm

presented by
REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater
California Institute of the Arts

HANS HAACKÉ

IN CONVERSATION WITH NORMAN KLEIN AND STEPHANIE BARRON

February 10, 2009

8:30pm

Hans Haacke, born in 1936 in Cologne, Germany, is today based in New York City. His work critically engages a multiplicity of dimensions of social and political life and contributes to unveil the often disguised, when not methodically ignored, complicities of the art world establishments with the reproduction of social inequalities and political domination. His work, usually in the form of installations occupying, or intertwining with, mayor public spaces, unapologetically remind the viewers that art is the fundamental field in which discourses can contribute to rendering visible the invisibles of the contemporary world.

Norman Klein is a cultural critic, and both an urban and media historian, as well as a novelist. His books include "The History of Forgetting: Los Angeles and the Erasure of Memory," "Seven Minutes: The Life and Death of the American Animated Cartoon," and the data/cinematic novel, "Bleeding Through: Layers of Los Angeles, 1920-86" (DVD-ROM with book). His next book will be "The Vatican to Vegas: The History of Special Effects." (Fall, 2003).

Stephanie Barron is curator, together with Eckhart Gillen, of the current LACMA exhibition "Art of Two Germanies/Cold War Cultures." Barron explains, "Modern and postmodern German art has been generally identified with expressionism, which has prevented a more complex reading within an international context. This reception of German art has been inextricably connected to national identity and political context. Art of Two Germanys/Cold War Cultures is the first exhibition since the end of the Cold War to fully examine the intricacies of the art of the two Germanys without reducing the works to familiar binaries of East versus West, national versus international, and traditional and static mediums versus open and experimental art forms. The exhibition mines these complexities, ultimately revealing a more multifaceted perspective on the art of East and West Germany."

This event is presented by the CalArts' Graduate Program in Aesthetics and Politics

Using a broad, multiperspectival approach, this intensive one-year program enables advanced artists and scholars to explore various intersections and crossovers between aesthetic and political theory. The MA Aesthetics and Politics Program is designed especially for artists who seek to deepen the theoretical and political dimensions of their work, and for BA, BFA or MFA degree holders who wish to combine artistic practice with a scholarly career, or plan to build a bridge towards a more explicitly academic project. The program has three primary areas of focus. First, it examines what is normally understood as political art—art-making that develops into a critical discourse in the public sphere. Second, the program addresses the reverse phenomenon: the notorious "aestheticization of politics" that so troubled critical theorists during the 20th century and now continues to attract further scrutiny. Finally, the Aesthetics and Politics Program provides a unique forum for scholars and artists interested in the type of theorizing—characteristic of continental thought—that contextualizes aesthetic and political phenomena within a dynamic space in which social meanings are generated and contested. Students exploring these burgeoning fields of study and practice are able to do so within the vibrant and highly interdisciplinary creative environment of CalArts. Core courses include three seminars on contemporary political theory, critical theory, and critical discourse in the arts, as well as a thesis seminar.

UPCOMING CONVERSATIONS

February 11: Does Los Angeles Need a Downtown?

March 8: *Black Clock: Year Five*

April 19: An Evening of New Nonfiction

May 14: Samuel Weber