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*For Immediate Release*

**MICHAEL PORTNOY  
WANDBISS  
JUNE 12 - 17 2007**

**ART UNLIMITED BASEL  
ENTRANCE HALL, STAND #3  
RESERVATION REQUIRED**

Opening reception June 11, 2007, 5-7PM, by invitation only

Michael Portnoy's project WANDBISS, staged for the first time at Art Unlimited Basel, offers audiences a "fine biting experience" in an installation that unites epicurean pleasures with Portnoy's long-standing investigation of social exchange and its constraints as media for art.

For WANDBISS, small parties of fair-goers may reserve sessions inside the "biting room," a private chamber in which participants are fed gourmet hors-d'oeuvres through small holes in the walls and ceiling. Eating is by mouth only: most bites will be fed by skewer or edible utensil (vegetables, breadsticks, etc.), and ceiling bites lowered on strands of seaweed or bean noodles, so that the biting experience may remain hands-free. Staffed by a reservationist and a team of expert feeders, and with a menu designed by Portnoy and Swiss chef Christina Ramseier, WANDBISS promises gustatory delights and a respite from the norms of art fair sociability.

Encompassing such diverse artistic strata as parlor-gaming, dance-theater and functional (and often dysfunctional) sculpture, Portnoy's practice is situated between the expectations of audiences and the guidelines of art institutions, with viewers serving as accomplices in his fast-shifting, madly choreographed theater-of-the-absurd. In works at such venues as P.S. 1/MOMA, The Moscow Biennial, Tensta Konsthall (Stockholm), Kaaithheater (Brussels) and Foksal Gallery Foundation (Warsaw), as well as at his private salon, Session, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Portnoy uses a hybrid mix of theatrical role-playing and impromptu administration to alter the rules of social engagement.

Architectural Consultant: Christian Wassmann, New York  
Chef: Christina Ramseier  
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For more information, please contact Gianni Jetzer at  
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