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> PERFORMA 07

For Immediate Release

A SPOKEN WORD EXHIBITION AND A SERIES OF SPOKEN WORD RETROSPECTIVES

November 2 - 7 2007, daily from 12 PM - 12 AM
Opening: Thursday November 1, 6 PM

Guest curator Mathieu Copeland presents a spoken word exhibition at the Swiss Institute. The one-week exhibition consists of artworks repeated by the Institute's staff. By leaving the gallery space empty and making works available only on demand, Copeland initiates an exchange between spectators and gallery staff.

The Performa exhibition features artworks by artists who question the possibilities of the spoken word in regard to art, memory, and exhibition making. Vito Acconci offers a description of an unrealized building for Antarctica; Lawrence Weiner's piece *AS LONG AS IT LASTS*, verbalizes its title; and Douglas Coupland offers hundreds of spams as modern truisms. Copeland provides sonic artifacts that engage the listening capabilities of viewers and question their memory. Day and night after day and night, sound stacks upon sound, spectators mentally accumulate lines, inevitably remembering and forgetting these ephemeral sentences.

During the exhibition the Swiss Institute opens from noon to midnight. The opening kicks off with a live performance, Nov 1 at 6pm with Karl Holmqvist. Several artists are invited to realize a live series of spoken word events, including: Robert Barry, David Medalla, and Michael Portnoy, who will realize *Seminar in Sublingual Carnage*. Events will take place every evening at 6pm. Please check the Swiss Institute website, www.swissinstitute.net, for more information.

Artists contributing to *A Spoken Words Exhibition* include **Vito Acconci, Robert Barry, James Lee Byars, Nick Curris (aka Momus), Douglas Coupland, Karl Holmqvist, Maurizio Nannucci, Yoko Ono, Mai-Thu Perret, Emilio Prini, Tomas Vanek, Lawrence Weiner**, and **Ian Wilson**. Artists contributing to *A Series of Spoken Words Retrospectives* include **David Medalla** and **Gustav Metzger**.

For more information on the project please contact Gianni Jetzer:
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For more information on Performa 07, The Second Visual Art Performance Biennale (October 27-November 20, 2007) visit: www.performa-arts.org