

Serpentine Gallery

Press Release

Media Partner

THE  TIMES

From Excess to Extinction: *Park Nights* at the Serpentine Gallery this summer

Serpentine Gallery
Kensington Gardens
London W2 3XA

T +44 (0)20 7402 6075
F +44 (0)20 7402 4103
www.serpentinegallery.org

The Serpentine Trust is a limited
company registered in England
under number 2150221

It is an educational charity, which
is funded by Arts Council England
and Westminster City Council
Registered charity number 298809

VAT Number 466 5881 01

Printed on material that is Forest
Stewardship Council certified

Every Friday night this summer, the Serpentine Gallery presents talks, performances, film-screenings and a licensed bar in the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009 designed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of SANAA, as part of its annual *Park Nights* programme. The Gallery's exhibition *Jeff Koons: Popeye Series* will also be open every Friday night until 10pm during this time.

Themes of excess, extinction and the spoken word will be examined in this year's *Park Nights* programme, which begins on **Friday 24 July at 8pm** with a presentation of films and lectures by groundbreaking German film-maker **Alexander Kluge**. The season culminates in October with the *Poetry Marathon*, the latest in the Gallery's acclaimed series of Marathon events, conceived by Serpentine Gallery Co-Director Hans Ulrich Obrist. A major conference on the subject of extinction takes place near the Serpentine Gallery in November 2009, to coincide with the exhibition *Gustav Metzger*, opening on 29 September.

From a screening of the cult orgiastic satire, *La Grande Bouffe* (Marco Ferreri, 1973), and the terrifying, much-admired cautionary tale of contemporary global excess *Darwin's Nightmare* (Hubert Sauper, 2004), to a discussion about art's surplus value led by renowned conceptual theorists **Diedrich Diederichsen** and **Dorothea von Hantelmann**, the notions of excess and consumerism will be investigated.

The series will also examine the spoken word by presenting the UK premieres of new plays and performances in the tradition of the Theatre of the Absurd by the young artists **Keren Cytter**, **Mathilde Rosier** and **Alexis Marguerite Teplin**.

On **Friday 7 August at 8pm**, the Serpentine presents **New Music Action** in collaboration with **OTO Projects**. OTO is the Japanese word for music and OTO Projects will co-produce with the Serpentine an evening of experimental contemporary music from Japan that responds to the architecture of the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009.

Continued overleaf

Notes to Editors:

Park Nights

Park Nights, the Gallery's acclaimed programme of public talks and events, will take place in Sejima and Nishizawa's Pavilion, and will culminate with the *Serpentine Gallery Poetry Marathon* in October, the latest in the series of the Gallery's annual *Marathon* events. In 2006 the *Park Nights* programme included the now legendary 24-hour *Serpentine Gallery Interview Marathon*, convened by Hans Ulrich Obrist and architect Rem Koolhaas, which was followed, in 2007, by the *Serpentine Gallery Experiment Marathon* presented by artist Olafur Eliasson and Obrist, which featured experiments performed by leading artists and scientists. In 2008, Obrist led over 60 participants in the *Serpentine Gallery Manifesto Marathon*.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion Commission

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion commission was conceived by Serpentine Gallery Director, Julia Peyton-Jones, in 2000. It is an ongoing programme of temporary structures by internationally acclaimed architects and designers. It is unique worldwide and presents the work of an international architect or design team who, at the time of the Serpentine Gallery's invitation, has not completed a building in England. The Pavilion architects to date are:

Frank Gehry, 2008; Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, 2007; Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond, with Arup, 2006; Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura with Cecil Balmond, Arup, 2005; MVRDV with Arup, 2004 (un-realised); Oscar Niemeyer, 2003; Toyo Ito with Arup, 2002; Daniel Libeskind with Arup, 2001; and Zaha Hadid, 2000.

Each Pavilion is sited on the Gallery's lawn for three months and the immediacy of the process – a maximum of six months from invitation to completion – provides a peerless model for commissioning architecture.

***Park Nights* 2009 – Listings until September**

All *Park Nights* tickets £5/£4

Available from the Gallery Lobby Desk
or www.ticketweb.co.uk / 08444 77 1000

Alexander Kluge

Friday 24 July, 8pm

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Film-maker Alexander Kluge presents an evening of short films and lectures which culminates in an 83-minute screening of his epic 570-minute film *News from Ideological Antiquity: Marx-Eisenstein-Das Kapital*, based on the work of James Joyce and Sergei Eisenstein. Kluge, the chief ideologue of new German cinema, also writes on contemporary philosophy and social theory. His working methods are grounded in a rich and representative mosaic of sources: fiction, public records, essays, news, quotations, observations and free associations.

Keren Cytter

Friday 31 July, 8pm

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Berlin-based artist Keren Cytter screens her new film, *The Tenth Dish*, followed by a performance of *Artism or Autism?* with Andrew Kerton. Cytter's films are characterised by non-linear and cyclical logic, her poetic montages of images recalling amateur home movies and video diaries. This distinctly analytical approach to film-making challenges the way in which the strategies and clichés of the media permeate our social reality.

New Music Action
Friday 7 August, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

An evening of experimental music that responds to the architecture of the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion designed by Tokyo-based architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of SANAA. The event is programmed by the Serpentine Gallery and OTO Projects.

Giles Round and Mark Aerial Waller
Kafe Pittoresk: L'expérience du monde visionnaire
Friday 14 August, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Giles Round and Mark Aerial Waller present an evening that uses Barbet Schroder's counter-cultural film *More* (1969) as a framework for a psychedelic presentation of music, sculpture and performance. The London-based artists take influences from sources including Constructivism and the artist Jeff Koons, and they re-edit some of the films sequences, mixing them with footage from modernist abstract films.

La Grande Bouffe
Friday 21 August, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

In *La Grande Bouffe* (Marco Ferreri, 1973, 130 minutes), four world-weary middle-aged men decide to gorge themselves to death in one final, orgiastic weekend of sex and gourmet food. Described by *The New York Times* as 'vulgar vaudeville on an epic scale... a mordant, chilling, hilarious, dirty movie', Ferreri's blackly-comic satire of modern consumer society provided actor Marcello Mastroianni with a perfect opportunity to send up his 'Latin Lover' persona.

Darwin's Nightmare
Friday 28 August, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Darwin's Nightmare (Hubert Sauper, 2004, 106 minutes) examines the 1960s experiment that introduced Nile Perch Fish into Lake Victoria, the largest African lake shared by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A voracious predator, the Nile Perch extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. However, the new fish multiplied so fast that its white fillets are today exported all around the world. Huge, hulking ex-Soviet cargo aeroplanes go daily to collect their latest catch in exchange for a southbound cargo of Kalashnikovs.

Mathilde Rosier
Play for a Stage of the Natural Theatre of Cruelty
Friday 4 September, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

French artist Mathilde Rosier, known for work that intertwines voice, text and melody, restages her performance previously shown at Silberkuppe, Berlin. The performance unfolds in three acts and includes the projection of Rosier's video work *Le massacre des animaux* (2001), and the dialogue, *Reveries of Two Solitary Walkers* (2008), written by Mareike Dittmer.

Edgware Road: Cinema, CAMP and no.w.here
Friday 11 September, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Artists' collectives CAMP and no.w.here convene an evening of film screenings, derived for their work on the Serpentine Gallery's ongoing *Edgware Road* project. The artists made films about the neighbourhood following extensive research about the cultural history of the area and its community.

Diedrich Diederichsen and Dorothea von Hantelmann
Friday 18 September, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

Drawing on fresh readings of Marxist and postmodern thought, renowned German cultural critic Diedrich Diederichsen discusses his recent book, *On (Surplus) Value in Art*. The art historian, writer and curator Dorothea von Hantelmann examines her current research paper *The Rise of the Exhibition*.

Alexis Marguerite Teplin
The Party
Friday 25 September, 8pm
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion

A performance of *The Party*, a play written by American artist Alexis Marguerite Teplin in collaboration with Rachel Kushner and art critic Pablo Lafuente. *The Party* is conceived in the tradition of The Theatre of the Absurd, and includes the characters of an artist, designer, philosopher and critic.

For further press information, images and interviews:
Rose Dempsey, 020 7298 1520, rosed@serpentinegallery.org
Tom Coupe, 020 7298 154, tomc@serpentinegallery.org
Fleur Treglown, 020 7298 1528, fleur@serpentinegallery.org