

JOHAN GRIMONPREZ

***HE MISTOOK THE GROUNDLIGHTS FOR STARS
AND ASKED WHY THE AIRPLANE WAS FLYING UPSIDE DOWN***

February 12 – March 19, 2011

Artist's Reception and Book Signing
Saturday, 19 February, 6-8p

ltd los angeles is pleased to present Belgian artist/filmmaker Johan Grimonprez' exhibition: *HE MISTOOK THE GROUNDLIGHTS FOR STARS AND ASKED WHY THE AIRPLANE WAS FLYING UPSIDE DOWN*. On view will be three major works, *YouTube Me and I Tube You: Maybe the Sky is Really Green*, and *We're Just Colorblind* (2006-today), *Kobarweng or Where is Your Helicopter?* (1992) and *It will be all right, if you come again, only next time, don't bring any gear except the tea kettle* (1994 – 2005). In addition, *Hitchcock's Belly Button*, a sound installation, serves as the backdrop for a series of drawings and photography staging a Hitchcock casting which was on the hunt for the perfect Hitchcock doppelganger. This LA casting occurred in 2004 and ultimately resulted in the film *Double Take* (2009), also on view.

During the artist's opening reception on Saturday, February 19th, Grimonprez will also launch his latest book, *"It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards"*. The reader is composed of collected as well as and newly commissioned texts and interviews, published by Hatje Cantz in collaboration with the Blaffer Art Museum, Houston; The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; and S.M.A.K., Ghent; with additional support from ARTIST ROOMS, Tate Britain, London; and The National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh. The artist's reception and book signing will take place on Saturday, February 19th from 6 pm until 8 pm at ltd los angeles. On the occasion of this exhibition, ltd los angeles invited Leigh Markopoulos, Chair of the Curatorial Practice MA Program at the California College of the Arts, to write a text on Grimonprez. This text is available at <http://www.ltdlosangeles.com>.

On the most recent work in the exhibition, *YouTube Me and I Tube You*, Grimonprez comments:

With YouTube and Google we now surf a reality zone defined in 'buffering-time' and where images of Abu Grahib, 9-11, or the swine flu epidemic, the BP Gulf oil-spill and the economic crisis have all become part of our new contemporary sublime. Meanwhile the political debate has shrunk into mere fear management. No longer happy innocent consumers of a begone TV-era, we are now avid consumers of fear. Paranoia suddenly seems the normal state of being. It's easier to ponder the end of the world, then to imagine political alternatives. This YouTube-O-Theque is a visual media jamming tool at the hand of an extensive collection of clips plucked from all sorts of venues, subvertisements and other cultural masquerading, --- can be envisioned both as the joyful affirmation of a global disengagement and the catalyst of effervescent criticism, best described as a platform for temporary disobedience.

Hitchcock Didn't Have a Belly Button: Interview with Karen Black (2010), is a sound recording of the American actress in conversation with Grimonprez as he steers her through a series of recollections about her work on *Family Plot* with the notorious director. Recounting details about their collaboration while repeatedly impersonating him, Karen Black creates an intimate double portrait that reveals as much about the director as it does about his star. Similarly, *Double Take* (2009) uses the image of Alfred Hitchcock to navigate through a bewildering doubling of cinema with television, capitalism with communism, and commercials with warfare.

Grimonprez' early video essay, *Kobarweng or Where is Your Helicopter?* (1992), explores the initial

encounter between Papuans in Irian Jaya and a group of Western anthropologists dropping down from the sky with a helicopter. *Kobarweng* strikes of the heart of what constitutes a bastard child of colonialism: the legacy of anthropological discourse. Through the image of the airplane, the return gaze sparked by the cultural confrontation between westerners and highland villagers of New Guinea opens up the critical gap. Grimonprez reframes the original archival film material from the expedition members with the accounts of the Papuans, who re-contextualize this rupture in the history of their village. These stories retell the Papuans' genuine amazement and confusion over the new visitors, but also reveal their humor and awareness of the situation: 'We never tell everything, we always keep something for the next anthropologist.'

It will be all right if you come again, only next time, don't bring any gear, except a tea kettle (1994/2003), continues to subvert the reach of Western cultural imperialism. When Grimonprez visited the Perpera region in 1987, the indigenous locals associated him with the European landscapes and urban environments – as depicted in films – which a missionary had shown them. Having travelled such a long distance with the expectation of encountering the unknown, the irony of being confronted with the most banal example of western culture, but also with the most familiar images of his childhood (his mother's favorite film), demonstrated to the artist that he, too, was subject to a process of stereotypical objectification.

Grimonprez' productions have traveled the main festival circuit from Sundance, Telluride, Tokyo to Berlin. His curatorial projects have been featured at the Whitney Museum, New York; Tate Britain, London; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; and Museum of Modern Art, New York. His work is included in numerous distinguished collections such as the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Kanazawa Art Museum, Japan; National Gallery, Berlin; and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark. Currently, he is a visiting professor at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and lectures at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University College of Ghent. Grimonprez spends his time between Brussels and New York.

For further information, please contact ltd@ltdlosangeles.com. The gallery is located at 7561 Sunset Blvd in Hollywood, CA. ltd los angeles is open Tuesday thru Saturday 10 am until 5 pm and by appointment (323.378.6842).