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For Immediate Release

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Julia Oldham Video Works Bring Wilderness to Downtown Manhattan

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The Timber

May 29-July 18, 2009

Julia Oldham

Opening reception Friday, May 29, 2009 6-8 pm

In *The Timber*, Julia Oldham explores her fascination with bug culture through a combination of performance and video art. Shooting her videos outdoors in the wilderness, Oldham takes on the role of the insect, using her appendages to replicate the movements that the creatures make during climactic life moments. Oldham's art re-contextualizes the human relationship with nature, drawing attention to our competing responses of curiosity, repulsion, empathy, and alienation when confronted with the insect world.

Oldham's earlier performances took place in the studio. After in-depth studies of insects and their mating rituals, she would translate these movements into choreography that she performed in constructed environments in front of the camera. For *The Timber* Oldham moved out of the studio and into the woods, where she observed insects in their natural environment and performed alongside them. Describing her work, Oldham states, "I create narratives through movement during my performance, and in the editing process I punctuate those movements with sound. The translation from English to Insect always undermines and shifts the story I wish to tell, and illustrates the awkward and tenuous relationship between artist and nature." Oldham considers her work playful anthropomorphization, "a meditation on the fantasy that humans and invertebrates have a shared set of experiences, accessible through rhythms, patterns, gestures and a relationship with the

Image: Julia Oldham, *Thaw*, 2008-09

environment.”

Julia Oldham received a Master of Fine Arts at the University of Chicago in 2005. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at The Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, IL; The University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA; and Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Her work has been supported by the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Artadia, the Fund for Art and Dialogue; and Art in General in New York. In October, 2009, she will participate in the Blue Mountain Center Residency in the Adirondacks.

About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and engages the public with their work. In 27 years the organization has emerged as one of New York City’s leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists may exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers.

Art in General is located at 79 Walker Street, NYC, one block South of Canal Street between Lafayette and Broadway.

Subway directions: take the 6, A-C-E, N-Q-R-W, or J-M-Z subway to Canal Street.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm.

Support

The Timber is part of Art in General's New Commissions Program, which is made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The National Endowment for the Arts; the Jerome Foundation; and Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro.

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