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# VS. THE POMEGRANATE

CULTURE IS POLITICS / POLITICS IS CULTURE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010

## Multi-media Installation, Painting, and New Album IX Are Featured in Luis Jacob's First U.S. Solo Exhibition at Art in General



Luis Jacob, *Without Persons* (2006) by David Frankovich

## *Luis Jacob: Without Persons*

Art in General is pleased to present *Without Persons*, an exhibition of new and recent works by Toronto-based artist Luis Jacob, curated by Andria Hickey. The exhibition includes video, painting, and a new work from the artist's Album series that will be on view from September 16 – November 13, 2010. Receiving increasingly wider recognition, Jacob's work was first exhibited at Art in General as part of the group exhibition *Explosion LTTR: Practice More Failure*, in 2004. More recently, Jacob's work has been included in Documenta 12 and has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at the Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; Kunstverein, Hamburg; and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

ABOUT ME



JOSEPH SHAHADI  
UNITED STATES

I'm a performance  
and interdisciplinary

artist and scholar. That means (among other things) I make experimental theater, performance, visual and installation art and I am interested in what performances do, aesthetically and politically. My family moved to the United States from Lebanon at the beginning of the 20th century and the strange, hybrid identity Arab/American shapes the way I see the world. But don't be scared, I am one of the good ones.

See my work at

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Over the past decade, Jacob's diverse practice has addressed issues of social interaction and the subjectivity of aesthetic experience.

Working in video, installation, sculpture and photography, as well as actions in the public sphere, Jacob's work is often derived from research on a wide variety of subjects. In bringing together unlikely referents, Jacob invites a collision of meaning systems that destabilize our conventions of viewing and open up possibilities for participation and the creation of knowledge.

In the artist's words, "what is essential for our experience of art—what is foundational—is the experience of non-intelligibility, a kind of dislocation. Aesthetic experience for us today is first of all an encounter with otherness, with strangeness: but an otherness that, crucially, is there demanding appropriation, intelligibility. What is so constructive about aesthetic experience is that it requires a creative act on the part of the viewer, an act of synthesis that is original through and through."

The artist's first solo exhibition in the U.S., *Luis Jacob: Without Persons* features a series of works that explore absence and authenticity in terms of pictorial representation, the legacy of modern art, and the self and others. These works call on the viewer to consider what may lie beneath the surface of the "empty picture," and what new forms of real and unconscious knowledge may lay dormant in such minimal propositions.

The central installation, "Without Persons," for which the exhibition is titled, is an immersive multimedia work that features two computer-generated voices, one male and one female, that talk about "being-in-the-city" and "being-with-others." The adjacent images project an amorphous, plasma-like liquid, with abstract but seemingly bodily movement, as if animated by the artificial voices. As the liquid finds new forms in formlessness, the voices invite the viewer to consider the discord of the alien world without persons, and the coming to consciousness of an infant who knows no persons.

Jacob's engagement with abstraction is also reflected in the exhibition through a series of paintings the artist made in response to an early suite of Mark Rothko paintings. Considering notions of authenticity and appropriation, Jacob reconstituted the original works using a staining technique on raw canvas for one series, and a vivid tie-dye technique, with two "eye holes" in the accompanying series of paintings.

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Likewise, Jacob's *Album IX*, newly created for this exhibition, intuitively reconstructs an uncanny narrative of recent art history. *Album IX* consists of dozens of images culled from a variety of books, magazines, and other publications. These images are montaged together in plastic-laminate panels, and hung sequentially in the gallery in the form of an "image bank". Through processes of visual association, the images of *Album IX* compose a poetic narrative around various themes: reductivism in painting and the modernist tradition of creative rupture; base materialism and the aesthetic sublime; embodiment and the monochrome. Using imagery excised from published sources, *Album IX* becomes an invitation to construct associative narratives about artistic experience by means of the visual material that surrounds us in the expanded cultural environment. In the fall of 2010, *Album IX* will be published as an artist book by A Prior (Ghent, Belgium).

### About the Artist

Luis Jacob's work has been presented in numerous international group exhibitions including *Haunted: Contemporary Photography/Video/Performance*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010); *Animism*, Extra City Kunsthal Antwerp; Kunsthalle Bern (2010); *Dance with Camera*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston (2009-2010); *If We Can't Get It Together*, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada (2008); *The Order of Things*, Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp (2008); and Documenta 12, Kassel (2007). His solo exhibitions include the Städtisches Museum Abteiberg of Mönchengladbach (2009), the Hamburg Kunstverein (2008); Platform Seoul, PKM Gallery, Seoul (2008); the Musée d'art de Joliette, Quebec (2008); the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery of the University of British Columbia (2007), and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2005). In June 2010, Jacob presented the first of a three-part touring mid-career survey exhibition, *Luis Jacob Tableaux: Pictures at an Exhibition*, at the Darling Foundry in Montréal; the exhibition will travel to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Toronto and to Vancouver. Jacob lives and works in Toronto.

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POSTED BY JOSEPH SHAHADI AT 9:08 PM   
LABELS: [INSTALLATION](#), [PAINTING](#), [VIDEO](#)

**2 COMMENTS:**

Logo Design said...

Awesome such a great multi media painting installation i see this first time thanks for a nice post share .

AUGUST 31, 2010 4:17 AM



Joseph Shahadi said...

Glad you liked it. I post upcoming art events in New York City and beyond often so check back. Thanks.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 1:17 PM

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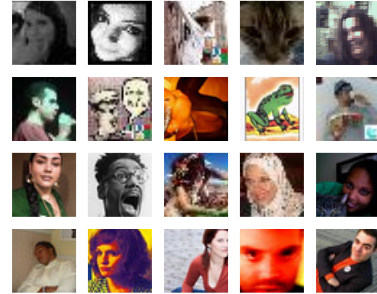
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