

THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

FAX

Drawing Room

April 17 – July 23, 2009

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 16, 6 – 8 pm

New York, February 16, 2009 – The Drawing Center is pleased to announce *FAX*, an exhibition that invites a multi-generational group of artists, as well as architects, designers, scientists and filmmakers, to conceive of the fax machine as a thinking and drawing tool. Participants will transmit fax-based work—some seminal examples of early telecommunications art—via the museum’s working fax line throughout the duration of the exhibition, on view in the Drawing Room from April 17 through July 23, 2009. The active accumulation of information—received in real time, in the exhibition space—will include drawings and texts, and the inevitable junk faxes and errors of transmission, creating an ongoing cumulative project concerned with reproduction, obsolescence, distribution, mediation, and generative systems. The exhibition is curated by João Ribas, curator of The Drawing Center, New York, and is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue co-published by iCI and The Drawing Center (available in September 2009). *FAX* is co-organized by The Drawing Center, New York, and Independent Curators International (iCI), New York, and circulated by iCI.



MATT SHERIDAN SMITH, *Untitled (contrast test)*, 2008. Black and white inkjet print, 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Lisa Cooley Fine Art.

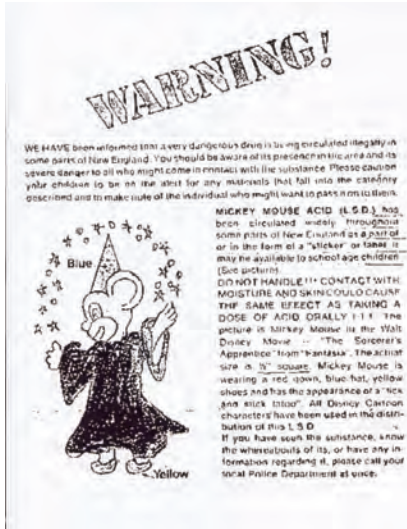
Although the technology for transmitting printed images and texts over distance dates from the nineteenth century—a machine for the purpose was patented in 1843 by Scottish mechanic Alexander Bain—it was the introduction of the modern fax through commercially available machines in the 1970s that turned facsimiles into a ubiquitous communications medium for international business. Artists readily exploited its immediate, graphic, and interactive character, making it an important part of the history of telecommunications art, nestled between the legacy of mail art and the nascent practices of new media.

Faxes by close to 100 participants sent to the initial showing of *FAX* at The Drawing Center will form the core of this generative and accumulative exhibition; and subsequent institutions will each invite up to twenty additional artists to submit works to be presented at successive venues as a touring exhibition in collaboration with iCI.

Participating artists include: John Armleder, Tauba Auerbach, Pierre Bismuth, Barbara Bloom, Mel Bochner, Jan De Cock, Peter Coffin, Cerith Wyn Evans, Morgan Fisher, Aurélien Froment, Ryan Gander,

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The Drawing Center



Junk Fax, ca. early 1980s. Facsimile on paper, 8 1/2 x 11 inches.

Liam Gillick, Joseph Grigely, Wade Guyton, Charline von Heyl, Matthew Higgs, Germaine Kruij, Glenn Ligon, Dr. Ronald L. Mallett, Josephine Meckseper, Olivier Mosset, Steven Pinker, William Pope.L, Seth Price, Pamela Rosenkranz, Dexter Sinister, Wolfgang Tillmans, Edward Tufte, and Christopher Williams, among others.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 pm**, The Drawing Center will host a performance by Warren Neidich in the Drawing Room.

There will be a free artist talk on **Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 pm** with artist Tom Klinkowstein and curator **João Ribas**.

EXHIBITION TOUR

FAX will travel to the Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD in the Fall of 2009 and will continue to tour through August 2012. Additional venues will be announced. Please contact iCI's Curatorial Associate, Frances Wu Giarratano for more information at 212-254-8200 ext. 29 or wu@ici-exhibitions.org.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

CREDITS

This exhibition is made possible in part by members of the Drawing Room, a patron circle founded to support innovative exhibitions presented in The Drawing Center's project gallery: Laura Jacobs Blankfein, Devon Dikeou and Fernando Troya, Amanda Innes, Judith Levinson Oppenheimer, Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, Elizabeth R. Miller and James G. Dinan, The Speyer Family Foundation, Inc., Louisa Stude Sarofim, Deborah F. Stiles, Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas H. Lee, and Isabel Stainow Wilcox.



iCI's exhibition program, including *FAX*, is made possible, in part, by support from The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation and iCI Benefactor members Agnes Gund, Gerrit and Sydie Lansing, and Barbara and John Robinson.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only museum in the U.S. to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org

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