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**ALWAYS FRESH  
ALWAYS FREE**

**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present photographs and a performance by New York-based artist Clifford Owens.**

*Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens*  
January 7-April 3, 2011

Opening Reception and Performance

Thursday, January 6, 2011

6:30PM: Performance by Clifford Owens

7-9PM: Opening Reception

HOUSTON, TX (January 3, 2011)—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present the first solo museum exhibition of work by New York-based photographer and performance artist Clifford Owens. Often incorporating the camera in his performance works, Owens blurs the boundaries between the documentation of his performance events and the creation of photographic artwork born out of action. Additionally, Owens' performances break through the separation between artist and viewer by allowing audiences to participate in events. *Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens* features photographs and video from his collaborative works with artists such as Gregg Bordowitz, Patty Chang, William Pope.L, as well as drawings and work in other media. The exhibition will also feature a performance by Clifford Owens during the opening reception on Thursday, January 6, at 6:30PM, which is a continuation of his series *Photographs with An Audience*.

In *Photographs with an Audience*, Owens performs actions based on questions he poses to the audience and their instructions back to him. The performance highlights the many different types of interactions with the public that are the larger context and content of the work. Owens uses his body as a point of exchange to disallow the audience from forfeiting its own social, ethical responsibilities in their viewership of the performance. Often physically demanding and psychologically riveting, Owens' performances conjure



Clifford Owens, *Photographs with an Audience (New York)* (detail), 2008-09. Installation of 18 C-prints. 18 x 20 inches, each. Courtesy On Stellar Rays, New York

**CAMH**



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both historical and current issues surrounding the body. *Perspectives 173* will feature *Photographs with an Audience* from performances done in New York in 2008 and at the Hanes Art Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill last year. He will present an iteration of this work in Houston for *Perspectives 173*.

Owens also restages historical live art works by older artists, creating open-ended situations that challenge the convention of art-making. In his 2006 work *Four Fluxus Scores by Benjamin Patterson (Whipped Cream Piece, Lick Piece, 1964)*, Owens restages Fluxus artist Patterson's iconic performance *Lick Piece* (1964), currently on view in CAMH's exhibition *Benjamin Patterson: Born in the State of FLUX/us* through January 23. His collaborations with artists like Joan Jonas, William Pope.L, and Carolee Schneemann also pay homage to a generation of performance artists who have not only been undeniably influential to his work, but to the work of his generation of performance artists. Owens brings a new perspective to the history of performance art through the act of repeating canonical works within the very different context of the current era, through the incorporation of the camera, his own body, and new audiences. In this, Owens brings a newfound understanding of the canon through the recognition of artists who have been historically lost within this dialogue.

*Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens* is curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Senior Curator at CAMH.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Clifford Owens was born in 1971 in Baltimore, MD, and lives and works in Queens, NY. He received an MFA from Rutgers University in New Jersey and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Owens' work has been featured in group exhibitions at such venues as The Kitchen, NY; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA; On Stellar Rays, NY; and The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, among others. Selected performances include *Photographs with an Audience*, On Stellar Rays (2008); *Four Fluxus Scores by Benjamin Patterson* at The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY (2006); and *Studio Visits: Studio Museum in Harlem*, Performa05, NY. His work was included in the 2010 exhibition *GNV: 5 Year Review* at P.S.1/MoMA, Queens, NY. *Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens* at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is Owens' first solo museum exhibition.

#### **PUBLICATION**

*Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens* is accompanied by a catalogue, featuring an interview with the artist by Valerie Cassel Oliver, color reproductions of exhibited work, and the artist's biography and bibliography.

*Perspectives catalogues are made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc.*

#### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

All events are free and open to the public, and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).

##### Opening Reception and Performance

Thursday, January 6, 6:30-9PM

Join us for the opening reception of work by Clifford Owens, a New York-based photographer and performance artist whose performances break through the separation between artist and viewer by allowing audiences to participate in events. A performance by Owens will begin at 6:30pm and is intended for mature audiences only. *Viewer discretion is advised.* Reception with bar and tacos; cash only please.

##### Artists/Scholars Talk: Clifford Owens\*

Friday, January 7, 7PM

\*Special location: Glassell School of Art, Freed Auditorium, 5101 Montrose Blvd., Houston  
Please join us for a talk by artist Clifford Owens, who will discuss his work. Co-sponsored by the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

##### Perspectives Talk: Bevin Bering Dubrowski

Thursday, January 27, 6:30PM

**Bevin Bering Dubrowski**, Executive Director of the Houston Center for Photography, will present a lecture in conjunction with *Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens*.

##### Perspectives Talk: Valerie Cassel Oliver

Thursday, March 10, 6:30PM

Learn more about *Perspectives 173: Clifford Owens* with **Valerie Cassel Oliver**, CAMH Senior Curator and curator of the exhibition.

#### **EXHIBITION SUPPORT**

The *Perspectives* Series is made possible by major grants from Faye Sarofim; The Studio, the young professionals group of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and by donors to the Museum's *Perspectives* Fund: Bright Star Productions Inc., Fusion Taco, Heidi and David Gerger, Anne and David Kirkland, Karol Kreymer and Robert J. Card, M.D., Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Belinda Phelps and Randy Howard, Lauren Rottet, Leslie

and Shannon Sasser in Honor of Lynn Herbert, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, William F. Stern, 20K Group, LLC, and Laura and Rob Walls.

### **EDUCATION SUPPORT**

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Baker Botts L.L.P., Baker Hughes Foundation, Ruth Dreesen and Thomas Van Laan, Louise D. Jamail, John P. McGovern Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Andrew R. McFarland, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Mrs. Louisa Stude Sarofim, and 20K Group, LLC.

Teen Council is supported by Mrs. Louisa Stude Sarofim and Baker Hughes Foundation.

### **GENERAL SUPPORT**

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

Continental Airlines is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

### **CAMH MISSION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Wednesday 11AM-7PM, Thursday 11AM-9PM, Friday 11AM-7PM, Saturday and Sunday 11AM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.