



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON Presents
New Work by Vancouver-Based Artist TIM LEE**

HOUSTON, Texas (Thursday, April 24, 2008) – From May 16 to July 13, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston will present the 161st installment of its *Perspectives* series, *Tim Lee*. The Vancouver-based artist uses video, photography, and performance to insert himself into cultural events and icons.

Lee makes one of the fundamental principles of 1960s Conceptual Art—the belief that the artist can function as an amateur cultural theoretician—the heart of his complex, analytical, and often hilarious work in video and photography. Playing the role of Sunday philosopher, anthropologist, and ethnomusicologist, Lee dissects and re-envisions revealing aspects of popular culture, film, and music.

In low-tech photographic self-portraits, for instance, he becomes hockey player Bobby Orr scoring a winning goal, or rocker Neil Young playing a famous concert. In high-tech videos he is able to simulate playing Bach's intricate piano compositions "The Goldberg Variations."

In *Untitled (Neil Young, 1969)* Lee appears to turn the studio-- the stage on which he performs Neil Young's music-- ninety degrees, making the floor the wall and vice versa. "It is as if I were mystically defying gravity through the help of rock music," the artist says. There is a slapstick quality to the pair of photographs, taken separately at a sideways angle and then recombined to stand upright. With a hint of dumb humor, the illusion barely holds together, all of which is the point. The just-barely-competent nature of his endeavors, he acknowledges, is one of the animating forces in his work: "There's a certain amount of stupid heroism in what I do because I'm not a performer or a musician. These are ridiculous works that anyone could do and probably do better, but here I am doing it."

By reenacting rituals of pop culture that are usually the domain of established practitioners or experts in a deadpan, just-competent-enough style, Lee uses absurd seriousness to blur the boundaries between the ridiculous and the sublime.

Tim Lee was born in Seoul, Korea, in 1975 and lives and works in Vancouver. He received an MFA from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in 2002. He has had solo exhibitions at Cohan and Leslie, New York; Lisson Gallery, London; and Or Gallery and the Western Front, Vancouver. His works have been included in the *Prague Biennial*, 2003, and group exhibitions at the Power Plant Gallery, Toronto; Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver; and Johnen Gallery, Berlin.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

Exhibiting artist **Tim Lee** talks about his work in his exhibition in the Zilkha Gallery.

Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.

Toby Kamps, Senior Curator, discusses Lee's work in a gallery talk in the Zilkha Gallery.

EXHIBITION FUNDING AND 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: Anonymous Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene; Suzette and Darrell Betts, COADE Engineering Software, Susie and Sanford Criner, Heidi and David Gerger, Leslie and Mark Hull, Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Solange Knowles, Marley Lott, Mike and Leticia Loya, Belinda Phelps and Randy Howard, William F. Stern, and Vitol Inc.

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

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 the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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

The audio guide features commentary by Tim Lee and is supported in part by Will Golden.

MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a non-collecting institution dedicated to presenting the best and most exciting international, national, and regional art of today, and to providing a forum for the discussion and understanding of the art of our time. Through dynamic exhibitions accompanied by scholarly publications and accessible educational programs, the Museum reaches out to local, regional, national, and international audiences of all ages.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Recent exhibitions at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston include *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space*, the first comprehensive solo exhibition of Zittel's work in North America, named "Best Architecture or Design Show of 2006" by the International Association of Art Critics; *Black Light/White Noise: Sound and Light in Contemporary Art*, the first comprehensive review of black artists working with sound and light; and the *Design Life Now: National Design Triennial*, presenting the most innovative American designs in a variety of fields, organized by the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum.

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Upcoming major exhibitions include *The Old, Weird America* (May 10 to July 20), the first museum exhibition to explore the widespread resurgence of folk imagery and history in American contemporary art, organized by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and *Sam Taylor-Wood* (August 2 to October 5), the first major museum exhibition of work by the renowned photographer who emerged from the Young British Artists movement of the mid-1990s, organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland.

GENERAL INFO

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 Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thursday to 9 p.m.), and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is always free. For more information visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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