

CONTEMPORARY PROJECT SERIES 2007

SLATER BRADLEY:
YEAR OF THE DOPPELGANGER and
MY CONCLUSION/MY NECESSITY

JANUARY 26 - APRIL 8, 2007



CONTEMPORARYARTMUSEUMSTLOUIS



Slater Bradley, still from *Year of the Doppelganger*, 2004-2005.
 Courtesy of the artist and Team Gallery, New York.



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Slater Bradley: *Year of the Doppelganger* and *My Conclusion/My Necessity*

The Contemporary Project Series 2007 will feature two digital video works by New York-based artist Slater Bradley. Since 1999, Bradley has been collaborating with Benjamin Brock, who looks disarmingly like Bradley, and who plays the part of the artist in several of Bradley's videos. *The Year of the Doppelganger* (2004-2005) stars Brock as Slater Bradley, acting out the familiar adolescent fantasy of rock stardom by playing what Bradley calls "the most famous drumbeat in the world," Led Zeppelin's "When the Levee Breaks." Brock begins his solo performance in an empty University of Berkeley Memorial Stadium, where he is soon joined by the Cal football team who immediately begins practicing. Apparently unaware of each other, differences are accentuated: teamwork vs. individual glory, and the beefy physique of the football players vs. the scrawny, adolescent appearance of the drummer/artist. Despite these obvious differences what soon emerges is an unlikely and surprising allegory that reveals parallels between the artist and the athlete, namely the struggle for fame, aspiring for perfection, and the tedium of repetition and hard work. The second video piece, titled *My Conclusion/My Necessity* (2005-2006) is Bradley's most recent work to date and takes place in the Cimetière du Père-Lachaise (a cemetery in Paris). A teenage girl is visiting this famous site whose permanent residents include Jim Morrison, Honoré Daumier, Chopin, Isadora Duncan, Honoré de Balzac, and Édith Piaf. We watch as her mother teaches her how to go through the ritual of leaving a lipstick kiss on the gravestone of her choice, in this case, Oscar Wilde. In this coming of age video, Bradley intertwines the roles of stardom, adulation, ritual and immortality.



Slater Bradley, stills from *My Conclusion/My Necessity*, 2005-2006.
 Courtesy of the artist and Team Gallery, New York.

Biography:

Slater Bradley lives in New York and received his BA from University of California, Los Angeles, CA in 1998. His solo exhibitions include: Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris (2006); Max Wigram Gallery, London (2006); Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo (2005); Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna (2005); UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA (2005); The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York (2005); Max Wigram Projects, London (2003); Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (2003); Universitätsstadt Kaiserlautern, Kaiserlautern, Germany (2002); Art + Public, Geneva, Switzerland (2002); and P.S.1, Long Island City, New York (2000). His group exhibitions include shows at: Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO (2006); Shirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2006); De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2005); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio (2005); NRW-Forum Kultur und Wirtschaft, Dusseldorf, Germany (2005); Institute of Contemporary Art, Palm Beach, FL (2004); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro (2004); *The Whitney Biennial*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2004); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2004); Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago (2003); Fondazione Pitti Immagine, Florence, Italy (2003); Musee d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg, France (2002); Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, Belgium (2001); Kunsthau Meran-Merano Arte, Merano, Italy (2001); Borusan Centre for Culture and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey (2001); and National Museum of Film, Television and Photography, West Bradford, UK (2001).

Exhibition Checklist:

My Conclusion/My Necessity, (2005-2006), digital video, length: 6 minutes and 35 seconds.
Courtesy of the artist and Team Gallery, New York.

The Year of the Doppelganger, (2004-2005), digital video, length: 4 minutes and 49 seconds.
Courtesy of the artist and Team Gallery, New York.

The *Contemporary Project Series* introduces current work by emerging and established artists that is experimental in nature. Slater Bradley: *Year of the Doppelganger* and *My Conclusion/My Necessity* is organized by Director Paul Ha. These works are on view in the AT&T New Media Center on the second floor of the Contemporary.

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cover image: Slater Bradley, still from *Year of the Doppelganger*, 2004-2005.
Courtesy of the artist and Team Gallery, New York.

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