Biography:

Exhibition Checklist:


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 Pad He. These works are on view in the AT&T New Media Center on the second floor of the Contemporary.

Funding for the Contemporary Project Series 2007 has been generously provided by the Arts & Education Council, Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, Regional Arts Commission, William E. Weiss Foundation, Whitaker Foundation, and Friends and Members of the Contemporary.

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," Lod Zappalari'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 treadmill 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 succession of dance figures from famous artists whose permanent residences include Jim Morrison, Honoré Daumier, Chopin, Isadora Duncan, Honoré de Balzac, and Edith 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 interweaves the roles of stardom, adulation, ritual, and immortality.

Paul Ha
Director
Biography:

Exhibition Checklist:
My Conclusion/My Necessity (2006-2006), digital video, length: 6 minutes and 35 seconds.


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