

(December 10 – 21)

2— The Front Room

CLAIRE FONTAINE



Claire Fontaine is a Paris-based collective artist, whose name was taken from a common brand of French stationery. By declaring herself a “ready-made artist” she treats the concept of authorship as an empty, standardized convention perpetuated by contemporary capitalism. Fontaine questions the possible revolutionary use-value of the artwork, and the subjectivization of all contemporary beings as “whatever singularities.” Her works include neon signs, sculptures, videos, light-boxes, and texts.

The exhibition title *They Hate Us for Our Freedom* derives from a seminal speech made by George W. Bush following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, declaring an ideological and economical distance with the Eastern world as a way to justify the subsequent wars. Spelling out the phrase with thousands of matches inserted in the gallery wall, the artist literally brands it into the white cube by setting the matches on fire and exhibiting the burnt remains. An image of Jackson and Dave, Dick Cheney’s two dogs wearing costumes, highlights the disquieting distinction between hero and villain, and a text pile on the floor written by the artist in 2005 is available for visitors to take away. Claire Fontaine presents an exhibition that raises the question of the meaning of freedom in liberal societies, and discretely shows the violence and the lack of independence that comes from the simple fact of being governed.

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Claire Fontaine is a Paris-based collective artist founded in 2004. Recent solo exhibitions include Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York, Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv, Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin; Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; and Kunsthalle Zurich, Switzerland. Fontaine was also selected to exhibit at the 2007 Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, and has participated in many group projects and exhibitions including *The Possibility of an Island*, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; *La gran transformacion - Arte y magia tactica*, Museo de Arte Contemporánea de Vigo, Vigo, Spain; *Can Art Do More?*, The Jerusalem Foundation, the Pavilion, Talpiot, Israel; *Passengers : Round 2*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; and *The Great Transformation - Kunst und Taktische Magic*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt.

**Image:**

*They Hate Us for Our Freedom*, 2008

Burnt matches and smoke, dimensions variable.

Courtesy of the artist.

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