

(May 9–25, 2008)

2— The Front Room

EI ARAKAWA



New York-based artist Ei Arakawa stages semi-choreographed group actions combining dance, improvisations, and semi-raw objects. Interested in art-making from start to finish—the preparing, waiting, adjusting, creating, consuming—he plays with the social spectacle of art. Often presenting an act of construction followed by one of rapid de-construction (and re-construction, and so on), his performances use and misuse sculptural objects in states of change.

Arakawa's exhibition in The Front Room, *Friendships, Outsides*, points to various stages in the production of art collectives by bringing together friendships, actual artist-groups, and different local contexts. In a performance on May 9, Arakawa painted metal duct parts he had covered with ephemera he gathered from New York-based artist groups. Also using the ducts as tools to make spray-paint drawings, he translates the movements of art collectives into abstract timelines and fictional territories.

Participants include: Herd Instinct 360°, Cinema Zero, Skul records, Hurray, Public-Holiday Projects, North Drive Press, Grand Openings, and The Steins.

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Arakawa was born in Iwaki, Japan, in 1977, and currently lives and works in New York City. Arakawa's performances have been staged at exhibitions at MUMOK, Vienna (2008); FrancoSoffiantino ArteContemporanea, Turin (2008); Kunsthalle Zürich Parallel, Zürich (2007); Performa07, New York (2007); Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York (2007), and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne (2006), among others.

Image credit: Ei Arakawa/Henning Bohl/Nora Schultz, Non-solo show, Non-group show, 2008. Performance still. Photo by FrancoSoffiantino ArteContemporanea. Courtesy of the artist.

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