

CREATIVETIME

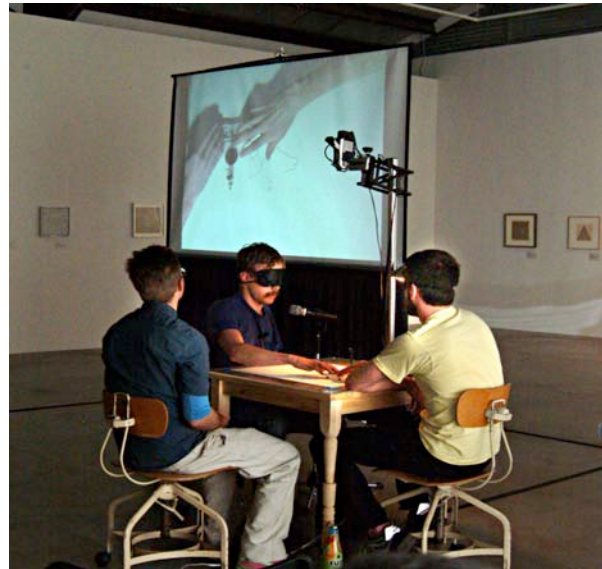
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STRANGE POWERS
July 19 – September 17, 2006, NYC

Group Exhibition
64 East 4th Street

also

Euan Macdonald, *Healer*
The 59th Minute: Video Art on the NBC Astrovision
by Panasonic, Times Square



Christian Cummings, *Automatic Drawing Brought Forth through the Ouija Board*, 2005

**STRANGE POWERS EXPLORES THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART:
DO YOU BELIEVE?**

(June 19, 2006, New York, NY) **STRANGE POWERS**, Creative Time's summer group exhibition, assembles works by more than twenty internationally acclaimed artists - **Pawel Althamer & Artur Żmijewski, James Lee Byars, Sophie Calle & Fabio Balducci, The Center for Tactical Magic, Peter Coffin, Jennifer Cohen, Anne Collier, Christian Cummings, Trisha Donnelly, Douglas Gordon, Brion Gysin, Friedrich Jürgenson (presented by Carl Michael von Hausswolff), Joachim Koester, Jim Lambie, Miranda Lichtenstein, Euan Macdonald, Jonathan Monk, Senga Nengudi, Paul Pfeiffer, Eva Rothschild, and Mungo Thomson** - whose works explore the transformative power of art through a variety of magically charged manifestations. While a number of exhibitions have recently looked at aspects of the occult and the spiritual, **STRANGE POWERS** highlights artworks that are made to actually have a paranormal effect on the world, including spells, talismanic objects, and apparitions conjured and transcribed.

Co-curated by Laura Hoptman and Peter Eleey, the exhibition will be presented on the second floor of an **East Village building, rumored to be haunted, Thursday and Friday (4-7pm), Saturday and Sunday (noon – 7pm) from July 20 through September 17, 2006, with an opening reception on Wednesday, July 19, 6-7:45pm.** Extending the show to **Times Square, Euan Macdonald's video**

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portrait of a healer will simultaneously offer its subject's positive psychic effects to the wider public on the last minute of every hour on *The 59th Minute: Video Art on the NBC Astrovision by Panasonic*.

The notion that visual art has the power to conjure the invisible, to embody something or someone, to bring back an image from the past or envision a point in the future has been an element of image-making since cave painting. "That a number of contemporary urban artists in the U.S. and Europe would find this kind of magical thinking of interest makes sense for our uneasy moment that is marked by rapid change, startling violence and a kind of cultural helplessness. This moment has encouraged timidity and solipsism in contemporary production, but also has sparked a renewed faith in the power of art that can be both bold and affirmative," states Laura Hoptman.

The projects in *STRANGE POWERS* actively strive to create, register or reveal some kind of transformation in their relationship to visitors and the space around them; many of the artists incorporate the magical directly into their broader practice and/or examine art as incantation. Featured works include two spell drawings by **Brion Gysin**, video works by **Sophie Calle & Fabio Balducci** of a psychic test and **Pawel Althamer & Artur Żmijewski** testing the effects of various psychotropic substances, archival spirit communication audio recordings from the 1960's by the late Swedish artist **Friedrich Jürgenson** (presented by Carl Michael von Hausswolff), **Douglas Gordon's** text beckoning visitors to "Do Something Evil" (to which the curators offer a response), a "soul stick" by 2005 Turner Prize nominee **Jim Lambie**, aura portraits of artists by **Anne Collier**, a photograph by **Trisha Donnelly**, the Ghost of **James Lee Byars**, a crystal ball by **Eva Rothschild**, four sets of black wind chimes by **Mungo Thomson**, and **Paul Pfeiffer's** version of a spoon bent by the poltergeist in the film of the same name. Certain artists are making new works specifically for the exhibition, including **Joachim Koester**, **Jennifer Cohen**, and **Senga Nengudi**; **Jonathan Monk** is re-creating a work for which he mailed a set of letters to the last address of the late artist Alighiero Boetti. A number of the works in the show take the form of performance. In addition to a new wall drawing, **Peter Coffin** will contribute a new work that gallery attendants will perform upon visitors at their request. **Miranda Lichtenstein** has commissioned a spiritual healer to "clear" the exhibition space prior to installation – a private performance that will be included in the show as a photograph by the artist. **The Center for Tactical Magic** will conduct a public workshop on botanical telepathy in connection with their work in the show - a participatory investigation into the effects of positive and negative thinking on plants. **Christian Cummings** will create séance drawings as a public event during the opening weekend, channeling spirits through his pen and ouija board.

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“Though few, if any, of the works’ powers can be empirically verified, we chose pieces that are sincere in their embrace of magical possibility,” notes Peter Eleey. “As such, the exhibition revisits a dynamic at the core of conceptual practice: our willingness to take artists and artworks at face value, and our ability to find power in ideas whose physical presence can sometimes be scant or nonexistent. Our hope is that the exhibition encourages a moment of belief for visitors—for many, a leap of faith—rather than a suspension of disbelief.”

A **virtual tour** will be available on www.creativetime.org/strangepowers and **audio tours** will be available on site. A small **publication**, with essays by Laura Hoptman and Peter Eleey, and with correspondence and images from participating artists, will accompany the exhibition and be available for sale at the show and through Creative Time’s website.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Christian Cummings creates séance drawings (July 19-23)

Artist talks: **Peter Coffin and Anne Collier** (August 19), **Jennifer Cohen, Miranda Lichtenstein, and Paul Pfeiffer** (September 16)

The Center for Tactical Magic - ESP Plant Workshop (August 19 & 20)

Visit [creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org) for more information on these, and additional events.

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Over the past 32 years, Creative Time has presented the most innovative art in the public realm. From our base in New York, we work with artists who ignite the imagination and explore ideas that shape society. We initiate a dynamic conversation among artists, sites, and audiences, in projects that enliven public spaces with free and powerful expression. Our work has taken us all over the city from Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Coney Island, and the skies over Manhattan with *Tribute in Light* and cloud skywriting, to storefronts, milk cartons, deli cups, and billboards.

SUPPORT

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