

Zurich April 28, 2009

Press Release

JIM VERBURG FOR A RELATIONSHIP

May 8 - June 27, 2009

Opening reception

Thursday May 7, 2009 7pm

WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary is proud to present the Canadian artist Jim Verburg in the 'Ehegraben' project space. The installation will consist of the much acclaimed short film 'For a Relationship' and the audio installation of the First Person Narrative Voice Over.

In this visually beautiful and daring work, Verburg sorts through 2 years of photographs to make sense of the relationships in his life. Sexual, romantic and familial ties blend together in this intimate reflection on the artist's relationship with his practice, his lovers and his family.

Jason St Laurent, Director of Programming, Inside Out

A diaristic portrayal of ties with family, friends, and lovers. The piece focuses on Verburg's own passing life, which is summarized in quickly flashing photographic stills of vacations taken, sexual exploits, tender exchanges and conversations, and encounters with landscape. What emerges is a system of values, a life lived according to objectives, that the artist is eager to share. In the piece, his hopeful attempts at communication with his father are riddled with expectations, and are continually foiled.

Mark Clintberg, Curator, Recovering Agnostic

www.jimverburg.com

Jim Verburg was born 1977 in Belleville Ontario Canada, and has since lived in Vancouver British Columbia, Kingston Ontario and currently lives and works in Montreal Quebec. His work has been exhibited, screened and published nationally and internationally. Primarily using photography, his artistic practice is mainly concerned with the complexities of relationships, intimacy, sexuality, light, colour, placement and movement. He currently employs the media of film, text, installation, and print to explore his love of modernist aesthetics, emotional matters, and intimacy. A part-time graphic designer and occasional curator, he has held positions as the artistic director of Montreal's Art Matters Festival, and as the co-director and curator of the VAV Gallery in Montreal. His second film "For a Relationship" screened at the 2008 Oberhausen Short Film Festival in Germany, and won the 2008 Jury Prize for the "Best Canadian Short Film" at the Inside Out Film Festival in Toronto. The work was also nominated for the Iris Prize in the UK. He's held residencies at the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in Montreal and at Gallery 44 in Toronto. He is currently working on a series of individual portrait books continuing his exploration of intimacy and relationships.

Awards and Screenings

Nominated for 2008 Iris Prize for Short Film, Cardiff, Wales UK

Colin Campbell Award for Best Canadian Short (Jury Prize) 2008 Inside Out Film and Video Festival, Toronto ON

International Competition, Queer Lisboa 12 Film Festival, Lisbon Portugal

Recovering Agnostic, Faculty of Fine Arts (FOFA) Gallery, Montreal QC

Make Out, Curated by Malin Arnell, Studio 44, Stockholm Sweden

Outfest, Los Angeles International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Los Angeles CA

Fully Flared International Short Film Festival, Berlin Germany

Frameline, San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival, San Francisco CA

All The Reel Boys, NewFest LGBT Film Festival, New York NY

Montréal, mon amour, 18th Annual Inside Out Film and Video Festival, Toronto ON

Vtape Screening, Internationale Kurzfilmtage, Oberhausen Germany

Verzaubert 17, Internationales Queer Film Festival, Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne, Berlin

Da Sodoma a Hollywood 23, Torino GLBT Film Festival, Torino Italy

Reelout 9, Queer Film and Video Festival, Kingston ON

The Quebec New Wave (La Nouvelle Vague du Québec), Inside Out in Ottawa ON