



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CORIN HEWITT**

**TOAD IN A HOLE (PORTLAND, OREGON)**

September 14-October 20, 2007

Opening reception September 15, 6-9 pm

Corin Hewitt will speak about his work at PSU on Monday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at the 5<sup>th</sup> avenue cinema (exact time TBA)

In the past few years, Corin Hewitt has created and exhibited a body of work – primarily sculptures and photographs -- that has explored memory, monumentality, death, decay and corporeality through forms from his childhood, pop culture, and art history re-imagined, re-scaled and rematerialized. His work has incorporated varied references including the weatherman Willard Scott, Skylab, relics from his personal history, and art historical giants such as Caspar David Friedrich's *Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog*.

For *Toad in a Hole (Portland, Oregon)*, Hewitt will continue a recent exploration of performance as a way to confront the process of revision, casting, and monument-making that has characterized his practice. Instead of producing durable finite sculpture, the processes of creation and documentation will herein constitute only a series of reflections blurring the past, present and future and questioning the nature of the object as the product of his labor.

The performance will last one week\*, during which time the artist will explore the materiality of organic and inorganic substances by cooking, freezing, eating, sculpting and documenting evolving forms in real time. The viewer and the artist thus share the experiences of the emergence and disappearance of forms, creating a palpable sense of loss, destruction and mortality but also the anxious and exuberant possibilities of transformation. As the novelist John Wray has noted about his work, "Corin Hewitt likes to touch things. Touch affords him direct and privileged knowledge of the world. Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind comes to mind, Richard Dreyfuss fashioning the mashed potatoes on his plate into a perfect simulacrum of desire." Similarly totemic forms sculpted and woven from food and other materials may appear and disappear over the course of the week. Hence, in opposition to the melancholic nature of monuments and the distancing view of the historical, Hewitt's performance explores transience as intimate, sensate, and hopeful.

The role of photography is multifarious in this work. An enlarged color-testing strip runs around the upper perimeter of the room within a room, the artist positioning himself literally within the sphere of picture-making, the slit in the wall the lens through which viewers have been permitted a view. More than a *mise en scene*, *Toad in a Hole* is an exploration of what it means to inhabit the space and time of a photograph. And Hewitt will explore this dilemma throughout the course of his performance, documenting all that he molds, eats, and sees with 4x5 and Polaroid cameras. Moments previous reemerge as memories held within a picture, or a picture within a picture, as the artist reinserts his subjective view back into the fold of the picture plane.

Corin Hewitt has exhibited widely throughout the United States and Europe, including solo exhibitions at Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, NY in 2007 and 2005. He has also been included in several museum and gallery exhibitions including Wanas 2006: 8 American Artists at the Wanas Foundation in Malmo Sweden; Material World, The Public Art Fund at MetroTech Center, Brooklyn; and The New City: Sub/Urbia in Recent Photography, Whitney Museum of American Art.

\* During the duration of the performance (9/14-9/20), the gallery will be open every day from noon-six pm, thereafter the gallery will resume normal hours of wed-sat, noon-six pm and by appointment.