

FAX



Installation view at The Drawing Center, New York, NY, 2009

reproducible, generative, yet erratic production via the fax machine displaces traditional notions of “the hand” which are still commonly associated with the medium of drawing.

FAX invites artists, architects, designers, scientists, and filmmakers to think of the fax machine as a drawing tool. Nearly 100 works were sent to the initial showing of *FAX* at The Drawing Center forming the core of the exhibition. These include new pieces by an intergenerational group of artists such as Dan Graham, Seth Price, Wade Guyton, Liz Deschenes, Barbara Bloom, and Tauba Auerbach, as well as seminal examples of early fax art by Stan VanDerBeek, Marisa Gonzalez, Sonia Sheridan, Roy Ascott, Zoe Keramea, and Eduardo Kac. The show also includes contributions from not only visual artists, but from a leading cognitive scientist, a theoretical physicist working on making time travel possible, and a renowned information designer, among others.

Participants submitted faxes throughout the duration of the presentation, using a specially-designed cover sheet by Dexter Sinister. These submissions—arriving in the exhibition space via The Drawing Center’s working fax line—included drawings and texts, as well as errors of transmission and the inevitable junk faxes. All the transmitted pages were archived or displayed together with the active fax machine. Visitors were able to view

For many years now artists have readily exploited the immediate, graphic, and interactive character of facsimiles, making the fax an important part of the history of media art, nestled between the legacy of Fluxus and the nascent practices of new media. How do artists see the potential of fax transmission today?

Now that the fax machine is a somewhat obsolete technology it can be repositioned as a tool for producing and conveying information that is intrinsically defined by the mode of transmission. Furthermore, the



Matt Sheridan Smith, *Untitled (contrast test)*, 2008

selected fax projects pinned up to the walls and flip through archival binders to see over 400 pages of works.

For the *FAX* world tour, which will appear simultaneously at venues all over the world, each participating institution is encouraged to invite up to twenty additional artists to submit works, which will then be archived with The Drawing Center's collection to create an evolving document of all participants. The curators at each institution are free to decide how the works get displayed on the walls and can rotate the installation throughout their presentations. The result—an ongoing cumulative project—is an exhibition concerned with ideas of reproduction, obsolescence, distribution, and mediation.

FAX tour instructions to artists:

Participants are invited to transmit fax-based work of up to five pages, either as one work, a composite or "tile," or transmitted over time, via the museum's working fax line throughout the duration of the exhibition. A fax cover sheet will be provided. At the curator's discretion, some faxes may be pinned on the wall as well as those displayed in binders along with the fax machine.

Partial list of artists:

Julieta Aranda	Ryan Gander	Michalis Pichler
John Armleder	Liam Gillick	William Pope.L
Roy Ascott	Marisa Gonzalez	Seth Price
Tauba Auerbach	Dan Graham	Blake Rayne
Fia Backström	Joseph Grigely	Tobias Rehberger
Darren Bader	João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva	Kay Rosen
Cecil Balmond	Wade Guyton	Amanda Ross-Ho
BANK	Charline von Heyl	Pamela Rosenkranz
Colby Bird	Matthew Higgs	Arnd Seibert
Pierre Bismuth	Eduardo Kac	Matt Sheridan Smith
Barbara Bloom	Matthew Keegan	Alexander Singh
Mel Bochner	Zoe Keramea	Dexter Sinister
Tobias Buche	Tom Klinkowstein	Josh Smith
Ian Burns	Germaine Kruip	Skuta Helgason
Cabinet Magazine	Glenn Ligon	Anne Tardos
Etienne Chambaud	Ronald L. Mallett	Cheyney Thompson
Cleopatra's	Jackson Mac Low	Christian Tomaszewski
Peter Coffin	Corey McCorkle	Wolfgang Tillmans
Jan De Cock	Josephine Meckseper	Edward Tufte
Collage Center West	Eric Mitchell	Stan VanDerBeek
Liz Deschenes	Simon Dybbroe Møller	Olav Westphalen
Helen Evans & Heiko Hansen	Olivier Mosset	Christopher Williams
Morgan Fisher	Warren Neidich	Jack Whitten
Claire Fontaine	Serge Onnen	Johannes Wohnseifer
Yona Friedman	Hans Ulrich Obrist	Cerith Wyn Evan
Aurélien Froment	Mai-Thu Perret	

About the guest curator, João Ribas:

João Ribas is curator at the MIT List Visual Arts Center and a widely published art critic. He is the former curator at the Drawing Center in New York, and his recent projects are several surveys, retrospectives, and group exhibitions, including: *Ree Morton: At the Still Point of the Turning World*, The Drawing Center, New York, 2009, *Frederick Kiesler: Co-Realities*, The Drawing Center, New York, 2008, winner of an AICA Award; *New Economy*, Artists Space, 2007; and *Expanded Cinema*, an online platform for experimental film and durational work.



Opening of *FAX* at The Drawing Center, New York, NY, 2009

How to participate:

Participation fee: \$2,000 for 8 weeks, plus incoming shipping (Institutions outside the continental United States must also pay customs fees as well as outgoing shipping charges to the U.S. border.)

Number of artists or artist groups: approx. 100

Number of works: approx. 100

Space required: 100 – 5,000 square feet; completely flexible

Available dates: now through August 2012

Participating venues will receive disks with high res scans of all of the works, as well as detailed installation instructions. Wall texts, press, education materials, and a catalogue will also be provided.

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