

S-O U T H E R N E-X P O S U R E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOPELESS AND OTHERWISE

An exhibition that asks – What does it mean to live in this country?

May 23, 2008 – July 3, 2008

“The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise.” – F. Scott Fitzgerald

San Francisco, May 7, 2008 – For many, being an American has rarely been so depressing. In this milieu, artwork that contemplates what it means to live in this country, at this moment, must confront the historical processes that have brought us to this impasse. The upcoming Southern Exposure exhibition, *Hopeless and Otherwise* asks the viewer, ‘What does it mean to be an American now, and why would one want to identify as such, amid the current maelstrom of international bile directed at this country? What is the point in speaking out?’

Hopeless and Otherwise is curated by Valerie Imus, Southern Exposure Curatorial Committee Member, and features work by Siemon Allen, April Banks, Mary Walling Blackburn, BLW, Melissa Day, The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest, Michael Light, Nathan Lynch, Alison Pebworth, The Renaming Bush Street Project, Jonathan Santos, Mark Tribe, and The Visible Collective.

The visual artists featured in *Hopeless and Otherwise* address and challenge narratives and myths of heroic American national identities. They negotiate the current pervasive atmosphere of doom and powerlessness by venting their own rage, or simply grappling with the feeling of being outsiders in this bizarre place we call home. They believe questioning traditional narratives of history is a continuous and necessary task. Their work speaks to a belief that, in order to survive, one must be able to simultaneously keep in mind the direness of the situation and faith in other possibilities.

Underlying the all works presented in this Southern Exposure exhibition is a clear understanding that change is not wrong turning suddenly to right, but a long process of challenges addressed and questions posed over and over again. Ultimately, the exhibition resides on the opposite end of hopeless, evoking the possibility that perhaps those who see this country as an enormous, ugly failure can imaginatively find a way to work through the despair.

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Hopeless and Otherwise Events:

Exhibition Opening Reception

What: *Hopeless and Otherwise* Opening Reception
Where: Southern Exposure
417 14th Street @ Valencia
When: Friday, May 23rd
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Cost: FREE

Public Programs

GLOBAL HONKING GROUND

a screening organized by 16Beaver

Southern Exposure presents an evening of short films and videos organized by the ongoing collaborative framework 16Beaver which examines America, and its ground. 16Beaver interprets this as "Ground as the contradiction and tragic failure of capitalism right now; ground rent, for everything that concerns housing; ground to the bone, for flexible labor; ground as the earth itself, overheating and poisoned; ground zero wherever a bomb goes off and people die. A discussion with members of 16Beaver will follow the screening.

Featuring videos by Ayreen Anastas and Rene Gabri, Benjamin Gerdes, Jennifer Hayashida, Jesal Kapadia and others.*

**A complete list of films will be available at soex.org after May 23.*

What: GLOBAL HONKING GROUND, a screening organized by 16Beaver

Where: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts,
Screening Room, 701 Mission Street at Third Street
*Reservations: Call 415-978-2787

When: Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 7:30 pm

Cost: FREE

*Seats are limited. Please call Southern Exposure at 415-863-2141 for reservations.

BABY BOOMERS FUCKED EVERYTHING

a psychedelic light show

Please join us for this epic journey of sight and sound exploring the war's effect on the American psyche to mark Independence Day and the closing of *Hopeless and Otherwise*. This event is organized by three Los Angeles based artists whose interests include counter alternative cultures, rhizomatic plants and color praxis.

**What: BABY BOOMERS FUCKED EVERYTHING
a psychedelic light show**

Where: Southern Exposure
417 14th Street @ Valencia

When: Thursday, July 3, 2008, 10:00 pm

Cost: FREE

*Seats are limited. Please call Southern Exposure at 415-863-2141 for reservations.

ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure is a 34-year-old, non-profit, artist-run organization dedicated to presenting distinct, innovative, contemporary visual art, arts education, and related programs and events, in an accessible environment. Southern Exposure reaches out to diverse audiences and serves as a forum and resource center, providing extraordinary support to the Bay Area's arts and educational communities. Activities include exhibitions of local, regional, and international visual artists' work, the presentation of art in public space, arts education programs, lectures, panel discussions, events, and performances. Southern Exposure is dedicated to giving artists—whether they are exhibiting, curating, teaching, or learning—an opportunity to realize ideas for projects that might not otherwise find support.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: 417 14th Street @ Valencia

Website: www.soex.org