



**Action/ Performance and the Photograph**  
Opening September 14th at Presentation House Gallery

MEDIA RELEASE

The happenings of the 1950s began a movement of staged activities in art in which the photograph played an integral role. Performance and conceptual artists in the 1960s and 1970s often orchestrated events specifically for the camera, events as art intended to occur only once at a given moment in time. The resulting images then became a documentary record of the event in some cases, art objects in themselves.

Conceived by curator Craig Krull, *Action/ Performance and the Photograph* is an ambitious attempt to follow the evolving role of the photograph in these movements. "This photographic perspective," Krull writes in the catalogue for the show, "considers the inherent technical qualities of the camera, its ability to stop or manipulate time, the question of truth vs. fiction, the symbolic or abstract quality of the still image, the act of photography as an action in itself, and the myriad conceptual differences that lie between catching action and orchestrating it for the camera."

The exhibition includes images with or by several pioneering European artists, including Yves Klein's famous *Leap into the Void* and Joseph Beuys' *Fat*. Various interpretations of the female nude are addressed in works including Carolee Schneemann's *Up to and Including Her Limits*; Hannah Wilke's *So Help Me Hannah*; and Marcel Duchamp's *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors (Chess Game at Pasadena Art Museum)*. Sculpture and performance within the landscape are explored in pieces such as Andy Goldsworthy's *Hazel Stick Throws*.

Also included are works by Robert Rauschenberg, Allan Kaprow, Eleanor Antin, Chris Burden, Dan Graham, Gordon Matta-Clark and the Viennese Actionists (Hermann Nitsch and Rudolph Schwarzkogler), among many others. Seen together, the work of these artists -- whose attitudes toward the photograph are as varied as their artistic approaches -- represents yet another example of the pivotal role of photography in the development of modern art in all of its many forms, and provides a fascinating sketch of the evolution of the Happening, Performance, Conceptual and related movements.

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*Action/Performance and the Photograph* is circulated by Curatorial Assistance, Inc., in Los Angeles, and funded by the Canada Council. It accompanies a second exhibition organized by Ann Pollock for Presentation House Gallery titled *Transient Moments: Vancouver and the Performance Photograph*, as well as a busy program of public events. (See separate listing)

Gallery Hours: Wed to Sun, 12 to 5 pm; Thurs., 12 to 9 pm; closed Mondays & Tuesdays.

**Media Note: For interviews with the curator please contact Diane Evans at 986-1351**