

PRESENTATION
HOUSE
GALLERY



Melanie Gilligan, still (detail) from *Popular Unrest*, 2010 five-episode video installation.

NOVEMBER 27 TO JANUARY 19, 2010

POPULAR UNREST

MELANIE GILLIGAN

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 5:30PM

ARTIST TALK

At University Of British Columbia Art History,
Visual Art And Theory Department, Buchanan Building, Block A, Room 203
(Located Across the Main Mall from The Belkin Art Gallery)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 6:30 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

At Presentation House Gallery
The artist will be in attendance

London-based, Canadian artist Melanie Gilligan works in video, film, performance, installation, text and music. Her newest multi-episode drama, *Popular Unrest* of 2010 presents surreal, satirical and disturbing narratives based on the current state of politics and the public realm, after the recent global economic crisis. Rather than take a documentary approach to its subject matter, the film offers a fictional future, in which all monetary exchanges and social interactions are overseen by a system called 'the Spirit'. Its five episodes center on eight unrelated people who are mysteriously drawn together to form a group. While writing *Popular Unrest* Gilligan was partly inspired by David Cronenberg's 'body horror' and American television dramas like *Bones*, *CSI* and *Dexter*. As with her recent video works, the film's episodic structure takes its cue from television and the medium's ability to dispense a storyline in stages. *Popular Unrest* explores a world in which the self is reduced to a biology directly subjected to the needs of capital.

In the other film in this exhibition, *Self-capital* of 2009, contemporary capitalism is represented as a person undergoing therapy. After the traumas that recently shook the global economic system, capital's deep-seated problems are worked through in order to rehabilitate it to its previous and more 'functional' state. Under hypnosis the patient is submitted to a series of body-focused exercises, circumventing the patient's conscious mind.

Melanie Gilligan was born in Toronto in 1979 and currently lives in London, England. She has a BA in Fine Arts from Central St. Martin's College in London and was a Fellow in the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program. In 2010 *Popular Unrest* has been exhibited at the Chisenhale Gallery, London, Kolnischer Kunstverein, Cologne and the Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Centre. Gilligan released *Crisis in the Credit System* in 2008, a four-part fictional drama about the financial crisis made specifically for internet viewing and distribution, commissioned by Artangel Interaction. She has exhibited internationally, most recently at *Manifesta 8* in Murcia, Spain. Her writing has been widely published in art magazines and journals, and she sings in the bands *Petit Mal* and *Antifamily*. This month Gilligan received the Illy Present Future Award at Artissima 17 in Turin.

The artist is available for interviews.

Media contact & Group Tour booking please contact:
Diane Evans at 604 986 1351 or devans@presentationhousegall.com

Popular Unrest is co-commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kolnischer Kunstverein, Cologne; Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Centre; and Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver. It is supported by Galleria Franco Soffian-

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PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

333 CHESTERFIELD AVENUE, NORTH VANCOUVER,
BC CANADA V7M 3G9
WWW.PRESENTATIONHOUSEGALLERY.COM
HOURS: WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY 12-5PM

CREDIT LINE FOR ALL IMAGES:

Melanie Gilligan, still (detail) from *Popular Unrest*, 2010 five-episode video installation.

