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PRESS RELEASE
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The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery's summer season engages text, language and performance with a major group exhibition *Postscript* and the first Canadian solo exhibition by Jimmy Robert
Opening with a FREE party on Friday, 21 June, 2013

Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art is a group exhibition featuring the work of more than fifty Canadian and international artists and writers. It is the first exhibition to examine the work of conceptual writing, investigating the roots of the movement in the art of the 1960s and 70s and presenting contemporary examples of text-based art practices. The Power Plant brings *Postscript* to the gallery to explore the place of language within contemporary art and broadly examine its relationship to history.

The Power Plant is also pleased to present a solo exhibition of work by French artist Jimmy Robert. Robert's practice typically explores the corporeal potential of a range of media including photography, drawing, film, video, sculpture, and performance. In his first Canadian solo exhibition, Robert addresses questions of limits: of his body, of the media he uses, of our understanding of exhibitions, and the various disciplines his work encompasses. At the centre of *Draw the Line* is a commissioned performance project that takes place within this installation of new and past work at The Power Plant.

The Power Plant opens both exhibitions with a **FREE Opening Party for all on Friday, 21 June, 2012 from 8- 11 PM**, which will feature **live performances** by *Postscript* artists **Caroline Bergvall** and **Christian Bök** at 8 PM. Enjoy this lakeside BBQ from 8 - 11 PM. A cash bar will be available.

The Power Plant
Contemporary Art Gallery

© Harbourfront centre

231 Queens Quay West,
Toronto, ON Canada M5J 2G8

T: +1.416.973.4949

F: +1.416.973.4933

thepowerplant.org

**Jimmy Robert: Draw the Line
 22 June - 2 September, 2013**

Draw the Line's focus on performance speaks to the rising interest in performance art among art historians, curators and leading museums. Performance has been an integral medium for visual art practices, gaining momentum during the 1960s and 1970s when artists moved away from the object in favour of "happenings," "actions," and "interventions." Such terms reject any theatrical meaning to describe a medium that explores the gestures, marks and effects produced by the body moving and performing in space. Over the past decade, performance has achieved a new kind of institutional position, whereby major institutions are increasingly incorporating performance work in public programming and exhibitions. During this moment of resurgence, artists and curators alike are faced with difficult questions regarding the relationship between a live performance work and its documentations or exhibition. *Draw the Line* addresses these queries: following Robert's performance, text and sculptural remnants will remain in the gallery for the duration of the exhibition to evoke the movement seen in his live work.

"It is with great excitement that we introduce an exhibition of Jimmy Robert's work to Toronto and to the country at large," exclaims Director of The Power Plant Gaëtane Verna. "It is not every season when we can commission a new performance by an artist, and we are very grateful to have the help of the Consulate General of France in Toronto, which is supported by the Institut Français as part of the Paris-Toronto project. I thank our French partners, who are ongoing supporters of this gallery."

Movement is evoked in every sense of *Draw the Line*: in the works we see, in the performing body and in the exhibition framework. Above all else, *Draw the Line* is an attempt to rethink the limitations of an exhibition, challenging viewers' expectations as it unfolds and transforms over time.

Enjoy the exclusive opportunity to witness **Jimmy Robert** perform on **27 June at 7PM.**

This exhibition is curated by Julia Paoli.

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN TORONTO WITH
SUPPORT FROM THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS AS PART OF PARIS-TORONTO
SUPPORTED BY: AIR FRANCE**

**Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art
22 June - 2 September, 2013**

Participating Artists: Mark Amerika & Chad Mossbacher, Carl Andre, Fiona Banner, Erica Baum, Derek Beaulieu, Caroline Bergvall, Jen Bervin, Jimbo Blachly & Lytle Shaw, Christian Bök, Marcel Broodthaers, Pavel Büchler, Luis Camnitzer, Ricardo Cuevas, Tim Davis & Robert Fitterman, Monica de la Torre, Craig Dworkin, Tim Etchells, Ryan Gander, Michelle Gay, Kenneth Goldsmith, Dan Graham, Alexandra Grant, James Hoff, Bill Kennedy & Darren Wershler, Seth Kim-Cohen, Sol LeWitt, Glenn Ligon, Tan Lin, Gareth Long & Derek Sullivan, Michael Maranda, Helen Mirra, Jonathan Monk, Simon Morris, João Onofre, Michalis Pichler, Paolo Piscitelli, Vanessa Place, Kristina Lee Podesva, Seth Price, Kay Rosen, Joe Scanlan, Dexter Sinister, Frances Stark, Joel Swanson, Nick Thurston, Triple Canopy, Andy Warhol, Eric Zboya

Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art is an ambitious group exhibition that explores the artistic possibilities of language through the work of more than fifty artists and writers. The exhibition includes painting, sculpture, installation, video, and works on paper from the 1960s to the present that raise questions about how we read, look at, hear, and process language today. *Postscript* explores the field of literature known as "conceptual writing," contrasting it directly to the field of contemporary art, and therefore offering new insights into the meaning of both literature and art.

Postscript includes a selection of writing by Conceptual artists of the 1960s that were specifically distributed in traditional codex form. The contemporary conceptual writing filling the galleries includes paintings, drawings, prints, 16mm films, digital video, photographs, mixed-media sculpture, sound installations, and iPad applications; the historical works on view are distinguished by their increasingly obsolete bound structure. For an exhibition full of copies - of found and reproduced texts, of visual and literary art that

mimic one another and echo works from preceding generations - the book binding introduces questions about the role of disciplinary specificity in contemporary reading and writing practices.

The historical works in this exhibition are examples of text-based art generated through practices of appropriation, transcription, translation, reaction, and constraint. The contemporary works on view borrow these same strategies, and in many cases, turn the strategies back onto historical works of literature and art. *Postscript* brings together different generations and different disciplines to demonstrate that works that look alike can still signify differently.

Toronto audiences will have the exclusive opportunity to witness **Caroline Bergvall** and **Christian Bök** perform at the opening of the exhibition on **21 June at 8PM**.

This exhibition was organized and circulated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. *Postscript* is co-curated by Nora Burnett Abrams and Andrea Andersson

**SPONSORED IN PART BY THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
SUPPORT FOR THE EXHIBITION PROVIDED BY THE 2013 POWER PLAYERS
PROGRAM: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP, MANULIFE FINANCIAL, ROGERS AND
TD BANK**

**Please send all requests for images and interviews to
rboyko@thepowerplant.org.**

Upcoming Programs and Events

PRIMARY EDUCATION SPONSOR: CIBC

OPENING PARTY

Friday, 21 June, 8 - 11 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Be one of the first in the city to see the new exhibitions and meet many of the artists. A cash bar will be available.

The Power Plant and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art have partnered to provide all guests with transportation to and from both institutions this evening as MOCCA also celebrates the opening of their summer exhibitions.

Live Performances during the opening party:

Caroline Bergvall & Christian Bök

Friday, 21 June, 8 PM

BOOK SALE

Sunday, 25 June, 12 - 6 PM

The Power Plant

Fantastic deals on art books and exhibition catalogues on the lakeside terrace or online. Deep discounts of up to 75%.

SUNDAY SCENE: Edward Bacal

Sunday, 25 June, 2 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Edward Bacal has an MA in Art History from University College London, and is currently completing his doctoral study in Art History at the University of Toronto. Bacal will speak about the current exhibition *Postscript*.

IN CONVERSATION: Kenneth Goldsmith & Christian Bök

Tuesday, 25 June, 7:30 PM

Studio Theatre, Harbourfront Centre

FREE Members, \$15 Non-Members

Experimental poets Kenneth Goldsmith and Christian Bök are two of the earliest founders of the conceptual writing movement and participating artists in *Postscript*. They will discuss an unofficial history and overview of conceptual literature, concluding with a reading and presentation of a range of conceptual texts.

CO-PRESENTED WITH AUTHORS AT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

LIVE PERFORMANCE: Jimmy Robert

Thursday, 27 June, 7 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Jimmy Robert will draw from American artist Carolee Schneeman's *Up To and Including Her Limits* (1976) in a new performance. Using chance movement to activate the objects in the gallery, Robert's new live work will transform his exhibition from its initial installation to one that evokes the movement seen in his performance.

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery at Harbourfront Centre

231 Queens Quay West, Toronto, ON, M5J 2G8, Canada

Admission

ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

NEW Summer Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Wednesday, 10 AM - 6 PM

Thursday - Saturday, 10 AM - 8 PM

Sunday, 10 AM - 6 PM

Open holiday Mondays

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Media Contact

Robin Boyko
Head of Marketing & Communications
The Power Plant
+1.416.973.4927
rboyko@thepowerplant.org

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