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That's When the Rabbit Taught the Eagle a Lesson With a Smith & Wesson

Mike Paré Barry McGee Jasper Sebastian Stürup Kristofer Hultenberg D-L Alvarez

April 18 - May 2, 2010

Opening reception, Sunday, April 18, 7-9pm

From April 18 - May 2, 2010, PARTICIPANT INC is pleased to present *That's When the Rabbit Taught the Eagle a Lesson With a Smith & Wesson*, an exhibition featuring an artists' book of the same name. Both the publication and its presentation are organized by artist Jasper Sebastian Stürup, reflecting his ongoing practice of initiating and realizing projects in which he would like to be a part. Each of the participating artists works with drawing as their primary medium, and, while representing a wide range, they are all somehow united by a sense of intimacy that is an inherent a strength of drawing. As well, many have previously advanced the concept of the book as a medium. The exhibition emphasizes the artists' book as an art object, and consists mainly of the book itself, displayed on tables with all pages viewable.

All of the works included were made especially for this publication, conceived as an artwork in itself. The book is 160 pages, 25 pages by each artist, printed in an edition of 500, and available for \$40. The title, *That's When the Rabbit Taught the Eagle a Lesson With a Smith & Wesson*, is a slightly reworked line from the song "Billy Jack," from the album *A Heavy Nite With...* by Relaxed Muscle, a duo including Jarvis Cocker under the name Darren Spooner and Jason Buckle.

Jasper Sebastian Stürup lives/works New York) has made over thirty artists' books through Fluens Forlag, a company founded while the artist was studying at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art in 1994. Two of those books were collaborations with other artists. This is his first book in which Stürup invited several artists to take part in creating one book. Fluens Forlag will launch its own website in conjunction with this exhibition at <u>www.fluensforlag.com</u>

Barry McGee (lives/works in LA) has made several books, in which he integrates different types of photographs with his paintings, sculptures, and tags. Kristofer Hultenberg (lives/works in Copenhagen) has recently made *I'm sure not*, which consists of a series of precise abstract drawings. D-L Alvarez (lives/works in Berlin) and Mike Paré (lives/works in Albuquerque) work with narrative, but in very different ways. Alvarez's neatly drawn laidback pixilated distorted images have an iconic feel to them. In Mike Paré's drawings, skater youth culture meets a wide range of 70s style images, from concert images to the occult.



On the occasion of this artists' book exhibition, *That's When the Rabbit Taught the Eagle a Lesson With a Smith & Wesson*, PARTICIPANT INC will inaugurate a series of bookshelves devoted to nonprofit and artists' publishing efforts, including Fluens Forlag, Regency Arts Press Ltd., Primary Information, and PARTICIPANT PRESS.

**Regency Arts Press Ltd.** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to publishing artists' books with contemporary artists. As a service for artists, Regency is primarily committed to fostering experimentation and innovation by providing them opportunities to work outside of the concerns and constraints of the commercial art marketplace. Regency also created innovative public programming exploring the intersections between art and books. <u>regencyartspress.org</u>

**Primary Information** is a non-profit organization devoted to printing artists' books, artist writings, out of print publications and editions. Primary Information was founded by James Hoff and Miriam Katzeff, who met while working at Printed Matter, a non-profit artist bookstore in New York. United by their mutual interest in artist publications, they formed Primary Information to foster intergenerational dialogue as well as to aid in the creation of new publications and editions. <u>primaryinformation.org</u>

**PARTICIPANT PRESS** is the publishing enterprise of PARTICIPANT INC, a not-forprofit alternative art space founded in 2001 in New York. The primary focus of the press is to publish artist's works of fiction.



Book launch. Sunday, May 2, 6-9pm

Hosted by the one and only VAGINAL DAVIS

With a very special greeting and serenade by legendary HOT KEYS creator **JEFF WEISS** 

On Sunday, May 2, 6-9pm, Regency Arts Press Ltd. and PARTICIPANT INC will launch the publication Nothing Up My Sleeve: An Exhibition Based on the work of Stuart Sherman, curated by artist Jonathan Berger. Functioning as an extension of the recent exhibit in print format, this book was designed by Julian Bittiner, and includes special projects by participating artists, texts by Lia Gangitano, Jonathan Berger, Molly McGarry, and Mark Bradford, in addition to an interview with the members of SUPERSTUDIO by Carol Bove, and an interview with SITE Projects by KIOSK. Reprinted for the publication, with new commentary, are two early critical texts about Stuart Sherman's spectacle works, by John Matturri (written in 1978), and Berenice Reynaud (published in October in 1979).







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PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES. Subway: F/V to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-7pm, admission free, www.participantinc.org