

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KATHE BURKHART *Numbers & Letters*

February 7 - March 2, 2003

Opening Reception, Friday, February 7, 2003, 7-9pm

Video Screening by Kathe Burkhart, Thursday, February 27, 8pm

Reading by Kathe Burkhart, Sunday, March 2, 8pm

Concurrent exhibitions:

New paintings from the

Liz Taylor Series

Mitchell Albus Gallery

511 W. 25th St.

February 8 - March 8, 2003

Works on Paper

Schroeder Romero Gallery

173A N. 3rd St., Brooklyn

February 28 - April 6, 2003

From February 7 - March 2, 2003, PARTICIPANT INC will present *Numbers and Letters*, a solo exhibition of works by Kathe Burkhart. Well-known for her *Liz Taylor Series* of paintings, Burkhart will present a large body of rarely-exhibited text-based works in painting and installation, accompanied by a publication of her work in fiction. In addition, PARTICIPANT INC will present two evenings of programming that incorporate related aspects of Burkhart's work. One evening will consist of a video screening of rarely-screened works from 1985 to the present, including the premiere of *Persephone 2002*, a new video; the other will consist of a reading of her literary works. This project seeks to highlight underrepresented aspects of Burkhart's essentially interdisciplinary practice. The exhibition will augment two concurrent solo exhibitions by the artist in New York.

At PARTICIPANT INC, Kathe Burkhart will present a site-specific installation of works from her ongoing series of oil paintings, *Authorized and Unauthorized Portraits*; together with *Chocolate Haikus*, works in which Dutch chocolate letters (a tradition from the 'Santa Claus' holiday, December 6) are utilized to construct large-scale wall poems that are flanked by kilos of chocolate sprinkles; and *Puzzle Haikus*, floor works constructed with children's puzzle mats (a type of educational toy) to form poems that interrogate the violent nature of everyday life. PARTICIPANT INC, in conjunction with the artist, will publish, for the first time in English, *The Double Standard*, a novella in a limited edition. This work is one of the artist's numerous works in fiction and was published in French translation by Hachette Littératures as *Deux Poids, Deux Mesures* in 2002 to wide critical acclaim.

Burkhart's work comes out of the theoretical traditions of conceptual and feminist art, and the ideas of deconstruction and appropriation. This kind of subjectivity is performative in praxis, drawing on Pop and identity politics, and coming of age in the late 80s and early 90s. In general, the content of her work deals with the visual articulation of the radical female subject, and its relation to public and private, personal and political, word and image, and fiction and nonfiction. The aesthetic is transgressive and anti-formalist. This exhibition stresses the performative and language-based nature of Burkhart's work, and presents interdisciplinary work in installation, video and literature--aspects of Burkhart's work that have been underrepresented in the US.

Working in parallel ongoing series, Burkhart's photo-based paintings pose a conceptual play on ideas of portraiture. She has made three distinct extended series of paintings: *Torture Paintings*, *Liz Taylor Series*, and *Authorized and Unauthorized Portraits*. The *Liz Taylor Series*, ongoing since 1983 and appearing in the 1993 Venice Biennale, originated the discourse of the 'Bad Girl' in contemporary art. The seminal reference for