

## JOHN PILSON

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present work by the American artist John Pilson (1968). In Pilson's photographs and video installations the focus is on the corporate world. Strange scenes unfold against the cube-shaped background of computers, office spaces, lifts and long corridors. The clinical atmosphere of the office building is rendered unrecognisable when random, spontaneous action breaks out that no one would expect to happen there.

In the gallery, three video installations and photographs will be shown that Pilson made in the World Trade Center in New York. In the multi-channel video installation *Above the Grid* (2000) you see two smartly-dressed men in suits walking through an office building. Pilson follows them through corridors, bathrooms and elevators as they suddenly break out into loud *doo-wop* singing. The corporate world seems to turn into a playground for adults. Ball-tossing, singing and leap-frogging – activities we don't expect in this environment – seem to be part of the order of the day. The scenes alternate with hazy images of the WTC building and architectural details. The video *King Pleasure* (2001) combines childlike playfulness with a sense of isolation and danger. A man in an office carefully puts balls into a wastepaper basket and walks down a hall with a woman in a wheelchair. After he withdraws with her into a small room and takes off his clothes, an unexpectedly effusive ritual follows. In the video installation *Mr Pick-Up* (2001), a lawyer tries to gather his things together before going to a meeting. As he picks up one folder, another falls to the floor. When he turns to pick up his books he loses all his papers. A choreography ensues of falling and getting up again. The constant stream of dropped papers begins as physical comedy but soon becomes like a never-ending corporate horror film.

John Pilson graduated from the Yale School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1993. His work has been shown at P.S. 1, the MOMA in New York and in the exhibition *Plateau of Mankind*, Venice Biennale (2001), where he won a special prize for young artists. In June 2002 he will participate in Art Statements, ART Basel 33 in Switzerland.

## The Bakery; SERGE ONNEN

The artist Serge Onnen (Paris, 1965) lives and works in Amsterdam. Onnen, who debuted as a painter in 1994, has spent the last few years working primarily on various forms of drawing; making publications, animations and organising shows on the art of drawing.

For *The Bakery*, Onnen designed wallpaper whose motif features a fence of people stopping up their ears. You only see their heads, arms and hands. It gives a sense of not being able to escape from your own thoughts, of being isolated from the world. The wallpaper is interrupted in three places by small monitors on which animated films are being shown. The films have no stories to tell; they are ideas that have been worked into drawings. In the film entitled '*Head*', one pair of hands catches a head that is falling through the air: first that of an old man, then that of a young girl or a boy with wiry hair. Onnen made the film's soundtrack with his band *DORBEEK*. In the second film, '*New Self*', two hands pull on the face of a head as if it were a mask, from which a new face keeps appearing. In the third animated film, '*Transman*', a figure is in the process of turning himself inside out.

At the opening, Serge Onnen will present *VOLUME 0*, a zingmagazine publication (shrink-wrapped with zingmagazine #16). This book, curated by Onnen, consists of drawings of heads by various famous, anonymous and dead artists such as Rita Ackermann, William Blake, Holger Bunk, Maurizio Cattelan, Robert Crumb, John Currin, Marlene Dumas, Dürer, Pam Emmerik, Raymond Pettibon, Daragh Reeves, Paul de Reus, David Shrigley, Elise Tak, Lisa Yuskavage and others. For more information see [www.volumehead.org](http://www.volumehead.org).

Serge Onnen graduated from the Amsterdam Rijksakademie in 1992 and took part in various group exhibitions within the Netherlands and abroad. In September 2002 one of Onnen's animated films, which was commissioned by the Amsterdam Arts Fund, will be projected on the outside wall of De Balie in Amsterdam.

The exhibitions run from 13 April to 18 May 2002. The opening is on Saturday, 13 April, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Danila Cahen or Anika Ohlerich.