



International Festival of Performance Art
October 19-29, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artists from Japan, Bulgaria, and Quebec featured at 7a*11d Opening

Québec sensation collective **Les Fermières Obsédées**, artists **anti-cool** (Japan), **Claudia Bernal** (Québec), and **Vassya Vassileva** (Bulgaria), and DJs **Isabelle Noel** (Toronto) and **Granny** (Vancouver) are featured at the opening of the 6th 7a*11d International Festival of Performance Art on Thursday October 19th at Xpace

The 6th 7a*11d Festival of Performance Art brings to Toronto over 20 established and emerging contemporary performance artists from across Canada as well as Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, the UK and the US.

Les Fermières Obsédées is a performance collective founded in 2001 by **Annie Baillargeon**, **Eugénie Cliche** and **Catherine Plaisance**, and based in Québec City. Their name, translated as "The Obsessed Farmers' Wives," ironically alludes to traditional notions of women's creative networks, such as the quilting bee. Their performances, often taking the form of tableaux vivants or public spectacles, satirize and confront pervasive cultural attachments to conformism, fashion, and mediatized images of femininity. They have performed in Québec, Canada, Ireland, Wales, Poland and Australia.

Performance and installation artist, **anti-cool** (Tomoko Takahashi) was born in Kanagawa, Japan. Her works explore ways of conquering the boundaries and rules with which people surround themselves. Through communication with the audience, she tries to find solutions in order to break through self-imposed limits. She has exhibited in more than ten countries since 2000. Recent group shows include *Visions in the Nunnery*, London, UK; *Cultural Studies Wien* at Museum Quarter 21, and *Platform Kunst* for Japan-EU year, Vienna, Austria.

Claudia Bernal has developed a personal approach focused on the fragmentation of urban space and its impact on society and culture. The concepts of movement, migration, space, identity, are recurrent in her artworks. She has presented both collective and solo exhibitions in Canada, Québec, Colombia, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico and Germany. Claudia Bernal lives and works in Montréal.

Other artists performing at the 7a*11d festival include **Tejpal S. Aji**, **Ed Johnson**, and **Nahed Mansour** from Toronto, **Rita McKeough** from Nova Scotia, **Glyn Davies-Marshall** from the UK, **Racquel de Loyola** from the Philippines, **Dariusz Fodczuk** from Poland, **Rose Hill** from the USA, and **Herma Wittstock** from Germany. Members of the 7a*11d collective, many having just completed successful performances at Toronto's *Nuit Blanche*, include **Gale Allen**, **Shannon Cochrane**, **Paul Couillard**, **Jim Drobnick**, **Louise Liliefeldt**, **Johanna Householder** and **Tanya Mars**.

A PDF of the 2006 Festival catalogue is available at www.7a-11d.ca

All events PWYC. Suggested donation for evening programs & Opening Night Party is \$5.
7a*11d main festival venue: Xpace (303 Augusta Ave. in Kensington Market)
Plus day events + programming at Toronto Free Gallery, OCAD & Trinity Bellwoods Park.

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:
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