

>DEPART FOUNDATION
FOR THE
DISCUSSION
EXHIBITION
AND
PRODUCTION
OF ART

NERO

AMERICAN ACADEMY
IN ROME

Rome, April '10
PRESS RELEASE

HUNGRY FOR DEATH
13rd May – 11st June 2010
American Academy in Rome

DEPART Foundation and NERO proudly present *Hungry for Death*, an exhibition the imaginary of the band Destroy All Monsters, a Michigan collective consisting of Mike Kelley, Cary Loren, Niagara, and Jim Shaw, among others. The exhibition is curated by James Hoff and Cary Loren.

By presenting the work of a collective which in its members included two of the most prominent representatives of the contemporary californian art scene – Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw – *Hungry for Death* acts as a prelude to the next major exhibition produced by DEPART Foundation featuring the Los Angeles art scene: titled *California Dreaming*, the show will be curated by Michael Ned Holte e Aram Moshayed and will open in Rome during the spring 2011.

Hungry For Death celebrates the vision of Destroy All Monsters through an exhibition that showcases posters, flyers, photographs, blueprints, drawings, banners, magazines, records, and various other ephemera culled from the collective's archive. *Hungry for Death* emphasizes material produced in the 70s and following the original collective's reunion in 1996.

Formed at a house party in 1973, Destroy All Monsters played their first gig at a comic book convention—where they were asked to leave after ten minutes—using prepared guitars, a drum machine, tape loops, and various other instruments to create an unorthodox sound of suburban dystopian psyche music that was equal parts Stooges, Albert Ayler, Sun Ra, Velvet Underground, and Sci-Fi B-movie shtick. Operating in this capacity through 1976, the band's music was accompanied by performances and films as well as a magazine of the same name (which Loren edited through 1979), consisting mostly of collages and prints inspired by sci-fi movies, underground music, political subcultures, and iconic elements of 60s counterculture as it had filtered through to the collective's hometown of Ann Arbor,

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Michigan. After the departure of Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw in 1976, Ron Asheton (The Stooges) and Michael Davis (MC5) joined the band and Destroy All Monsters entered a second, punk phase that met with popular success with singles such as Bored/You're Gonna Die. In 1995, the original members staged a reunion tour, and since then have appeared in various exhibitions and music festivals. Among the exhibitions in which Destroy All Monsters have been included: "Theater Without Theater", MOCBA, Barcelona, Spain, (2007); "Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll Since 1967", MCA Chicago (2007); "Exhibition and archives" at the Magasin Center for Contemporary Art in Grenoble, France, (2006); and "Art>Music (rock, pop, techno)" at Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (2001). At the invitation of Ben Schot and Ronald Corneilson for the "I Rip You, You Rip Me" festival and seminar at the Boijman's Museum in Rotterdam, DAM began work on the installation and film known as "Strange Früt: Rock Apochrypha an investigation of Detroit culture". This exhibition was shown and completed in 2000 at COCA (Center on Contemporary Art) in Seattle, WA., and in 2001 at the DAM Collective: Artists Take On Detroit at the Detroit Institute of Arts. This work was also selected for inclusion in the 2002 Whitney Biennial of Art in NYC. In 2006, the "Strange Früt" exhibition and the bands archives traveled to the Magasin Center for Contemporary Art in Grenoble, France.

Destroy All Monsters performed at the "All Tomorrow's Parties" festivals in Los Angeles as guest artists of Sonic Youth, and in London, UK as guest artists selected by Jake and Dinos Chapman. Works by Destroy All Monsters are for sale during the exhibition including posters, books, and ephemera by the collective and its members.

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INFORMATIONS:

Title: *Hungry for Death* a cura di **James Hoff** e **Cary Loren**

Opening: May 13rd 2010

From May 14th till June 11st

Location: American Academy in Rome - Via Angelo Masina, 5 – Roma

Free entrance with reservation at: 06.5846459

Organization: DEPART Foundation – NERO

Information: www.departfoundation.org - Infoline:

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Notes

One of the founding members of Destry All Monsters, **Cary Loren** remains in Detroit, where he is the proprietor of Book Beat, a nationally recognized independent book store specializing in art related subjects. He continues to create music, photography, and independent films.

James Hoff is the co-Founder and editor of Primary Information. He has edited a number of publications, such as 0 To 9: The Complete Magazine 1967-1969, Aram Saroyan: The Complete Minimal Poems, How to Make a Happening by Allan Kaprow and Rock/Music Writings by Dan Graham. He is editor of the upcoming Avalanche Magazine and Notebooks 1967 - 1970 by Lee Lozano, both of which will be published in 2010 on Primary Information. He is the author of a number of artist books, amongst others Topten, published by No Input Books in 2008.

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DEPART Foundation is an emerging arts organization dedicated to the development and support of contemporary artists whose work and careers are departing from their previous endeavors or predecessors.

Founded by the entrepreneur Pierpaolo Barzan, founder of Altay Scientific, a leading European company engaged in the production and distribution of science teaching equipment, DEPART has soon become an established art organization.

The Foundation actively engages the field of art production, research, education, and acquisition, encouraging artist development through sponsorship of its artists-in-residency program, workshops, symposia, and research fellowships; urban development through planning and architectural projects; and cultural development through community-oriented programs and outreach.

NERO is a quarterly magazine dealing with contemporary culture. Created in 2004, it has a circulation of 60.000 copies and is distributed widely in Europe and the US. The team behind NERO also works in curating, art direction and production of contemporary art events and exhibitions. The publishing department, under the name Produzioni NERO, works in the production of artist's editions, alongside catalogues and books commissioned by museums, foundations and private collections.

Thanks to Damiana Leoni

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