The Drawing Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information and images,
please contact Lisa Gold
Public Relations and Marketing Director
212-219-2166, ext. 214
lgold@drawingcenter.org

THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

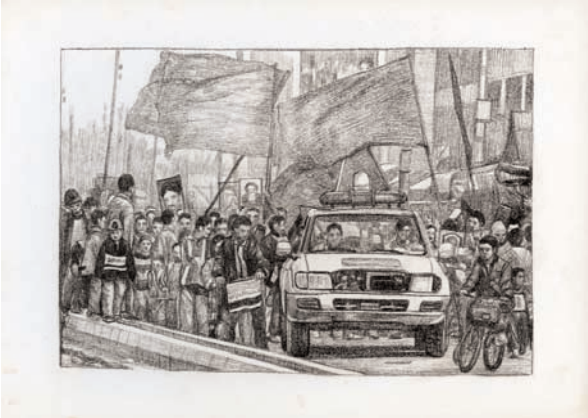
Rirkrit Tiravanija: Demonstration Drawings

Main Gallery

September 12 – November 6, 2008
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 11, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Talk: Saturday, September 13, 5:00 pm

New York, July 22, 2008 – From September 12 to November 6, 2008, The Drawing Center will present *Rirkrit Tiravanija: Demonstration Drawings* in the Main Gallery. This exhibition, featuring more than 200 works on paper, will be the first U.S. museum exhibition of the artist's ongoing series of commissioned drawings derived from photographs of demonstrations published in the *International Herald Tribune*.



RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA, *untitled (demonstration no. 138), 2006*. Graphite on paper, 8 1/4 x 11 3/4 inches. Courtesy of the artist; 1301PE, Los Angeles; and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York.

While public protests and mass demonstrations are often associated with the leftist politics of the 1960s, Tiravanija's project reconsiders their relevance in today's political climate. For the *Demonstration Drawings*, Tiravanija has commissioned Thai artists, many of them former students, to create a series of photorealistic pencil drawings depicting multifarious responses to power, oppression, and global capital. Tiravanija's drawings translate photojournalist depictions of acts of political spontaneity into a medium itself characterized by immediacy—turning ephemeral images of strife and social conflict into documents of political aspiration.

By providing a perspectival view of collective actions, political protests, and popular sovereignty movements worldwide, the *Demonstration Drawings* confront commonly-held assumptions about globalization and the resistance to economic liberalism. This exhibition is curated by João Ribas.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rirkrit Tiravanija (b. 1961, Buenos Aires, Argentina) was raised in Thailand and studied in Canada, Chicago, and New York. He is currently Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Faculty of the Arts, at Columbia University, New York and lives in New York, Berlin, and Thailand. Tiravanija's work has been presented widely at museums and galleries throughout the world including solo exhibitions at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2005); Serpentine Gallery, London (2005); Secession, Vienna (2002);

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and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1997). He has participated in such notable group exhibitions as the Sharjah Biennial 8, United Arab Emirates (2007); 27th São Paulo Biennial, Brazil (2006); Whitney Biennial 2006: Day for Night, New York (2005), and the 50th Venice Biennale (2003). Tiravanija is the recipient of numerous awards including the Silpathorn Award in 2007 from the Ministry of Culture of Thailand and the Hugo Boss Prize in 2004 from the Guggenheim Museum. His work is the subject of a forthcoming exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 pm, João Ribas** will lead an informal tour of the exhibition.

The Drawing Center's series of **Artist Talks** continues this season, presenting conversations with outstanding contemporary artists. Join us at **6:30 pm** on **Wednesday, September 24** for a discussion between **Pat Steir** and curator **João Ribas**, followed by **Jutta Koether** and João Ribas on **Tuesday, October 7,** and **Adam Helms** and **Executive Director Brett Littman** on **Wednesday, October 22.**

Children, accompanied by adults, are invited to participate in **Family Art Workshops** which integrate open discussions and art-making activities related to the exhibitions on view. On **Saturday, September 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**, we will offer an educator-led workshop suited to children ages 9 to 12. Admission to all workshops and public programs is **free**.

PUBLICATION

As part of its ongoing publication series, The Drawing Center will publish the newly-formatted *Drawing Papers 79: Rirkrit Tiravanija: Demonstration Drawings,* a 120-page publication featuring approximately 75 black-and-white reproductions of the works exhibited in the show as well as essays by curator João Ribas and noted journalist and literary critic **David Rieff.**

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

CREDITS

The Drawing Center's 2008–2009 exhibitions and public programs are made possible, in part, with the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. Additional support for this exhibition is provided by Hilary and Peter Hatch; Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York; and 1301PE, Los Angeles.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only museum in the U.S. to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and underrecognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org

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