

**Press Release
de Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam**

4 September 2008

de Appel presents:

**If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution
Edition III - "Masquerade"**

27 September - 9 November 2008

Opening: Friday 26 September, from 6 pm onwards

Artists: Keren Cytter (IL, 1977), Jon Mikel Euba (ES, 1967), Olivier Foulon (BE, 1976), Suchan Kinoshita (JP, 1960), Joachim Koester (DK/US, 1962), Sarah Pierce (US/IE, 1968) and Stefanie Seibold (DE, 1967)

Curators: Frederique Bergholtz (NL) and Annie Fletcher (IE/NL)

In 2006, de Appel formed a long-term partnership with If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution, a travelling platform for performance-related practices in the visual arts. 'If I Can't Dance...', a famous statement attributed to the anarchist Emma Goldman, typifies the unique capacity of art to make political and critical statements about the world while also celebrating that same world. With this ongoing collaboration, de Appel refers indirectly to its own roots (1975-1983, under director Wies Smals) and to the fact that notions like 'the performative' and feminism continue to play an important part in de Appel's programme.

In 2006, the close relation between If I Can't Dance... and de Appel resulted in an exhibition, a performance weekend and a symposium. These activities explored the energy and intellectual perspectives of feminism (or feminisms) as studied in contemporary art practice.

In 2008-2010 during the third edition If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution embraces the theme of 'Masquerade'. The exploration of this theme may be seen as an extension of earlier research conducted by If I Can't Dance... into theatricality (Edition I, 2005) and into the heritage and potential of feminism (Edition II, 2006-2007). In Edition III - "Masquerade", which consists of a prologue and four episodes, If I Can't Dance... aims to investigate, together with artists and other mediators, how we handle ideas about identity and public space today.

Edition III lasts two years, during which period it will examine the theme from different perspectives and present it for consideration at different moments in the context of institutions in several cities. Following the prologue at the Overgaden arts centre in Copenhagen in August 2008, episode 1 will take place in de Appel in the form of an exhibition, an archival presentation and a performance programme. This project will touch on subaspects of the main theme, such as rituals, gestures, normalized as opposed to transgressive behaviour, covert as opposed to manifest action and differing approaches to role playing, power positions and appearances. For episode 1 in de Appel, artist Stefanie Seibold will present a selection of de Appel's archive in

collaboration with **de Appel's** librarian Nell Donkers, showing positions and projects in relation to the notion of the masquerade from **de Appel's** legacy.

The project will have a sequel in the form of episode 2 this winter in Sala Rekalde (Bilbao) and episode 3 in Project Arts Centre (Dublin) in the spring of 2009. The fourth and final episode will take place at the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven) in winter 2009/2010. Collaborating closely with the artists Keren Cytter, Jon Mikel Euba, Olivier Foulon, Suchan Kinoshita, Joachim Koester and Sarah Pierce, If I Can't Dance... will investigate the Masquerade theme, and help develop new works by these artists which will be presented in the above-mentioned institutes at various moments during the two years of the project.

If I Can't Dance... Edition III - "Masquerade" is supported by financial contributions from the European Union, the Mondriaan Foundation, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture, the Prince Bernhard Culture Fund, the Municipality of Amsterdam, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the SNS Reaal Fund.

Programme:

Friday 26 Sept
6 pm onwards, Opening, de Appel

Sunday 28 Sept
1 pm lecture performance by Jon Mikel Euba, de Appel
2 pm performance, Keren Cytter, de Appel
4 pm "If I Can't Dance Tonight" with Joachim Koester, Frascati Theatre

Sunday 26 Oct
4 pm "If I Can't Dance Tonight" with Olivier Foulon, Frascati Theatre

Sunday 9 November
4 pm performance, Keren Cytter, de Appel

The date and location of the performance "Re: Horse" by Jon Mikel Euba will be announced on the website.

Guided Tours a. o. on 26 October at 2 pm. Reservations via reservation@deappel.nl.

Publication

In the winter of 2008 If I Can't Dance... will present the publication "**Edition II - Feminist Legacies and Potentials in Contemporary Art Practice (2006-2007)**" with contributions of eleven critical thinkers who confront eleven artists from the perspective of historical and present-day feminism in art.

Pre-subscriptions via ednavanduyn@deappel.nl or Floor Lysen via fl@ificantdance.org.

For further information and visual material, please contact Hiske Zomer via hzomer@deappel.nl or Marcel van den Berg via mvdb@ificantdance.org. Extensive, up-to-date information on the programme may be found on www.deappel.nl or www.ificantdance.org.

Simultaneously de Appel presents:

A new edition of **F.R. David**, de Appel's journal which focuses on the 'status' of writing in contemporary art practice: "**A is for 'orses**". The Book Launch is on Sunday 7 September from 4 pm onwards in de Appel.

The public announcement of the winner of the *Prize for Young Dutch Art Criticism* in collaboration with Witte de With and The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture will take place on Thursday October 9 at 6pm in debate venue Zaal de Unie in Rotterdam. Further details about the programme for this event will appear in September on www.jongekunstkritiek.net.