

CUE

ART FOUNDATION

Tom Greenwood

Curated by Chris Johanson

March 23rd – May 12th, 2010

(Opening reception Thursday, March 25th, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“For me, the central aspect of Tom’s art is the interconnectedness of all his creative processes. Tom has been a rag picker as a way to make money for years. It’s an art of patiently looking through masses of materials for objects with special value. He has a strong belief in chance and free flowing possibility.”

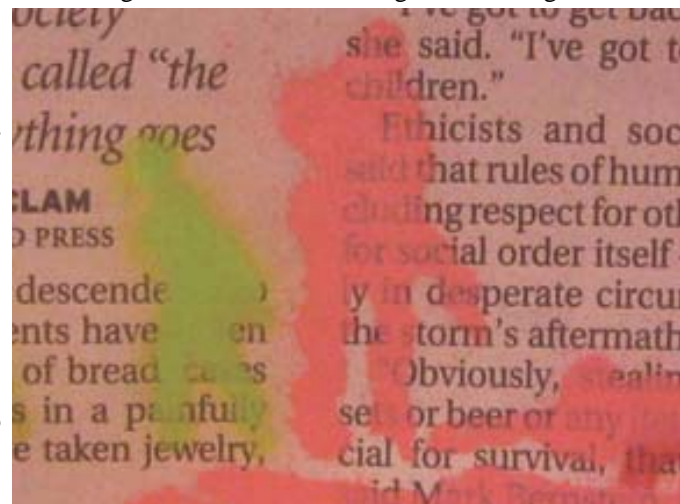
—Chris Johanson

Portland-based multi-media artist and musician, Tom Greenwood is known for both his passion for collaboration and aversion towards structure and convention. While perhaps most noted for his musical career, founding the band Jackie-O Motherfucker, Greenwood's background is solidly located in the visual arts and his two practices form an undeniably symbiotic relationship. Known for its highly experimental, improvisational and ever-evolving style, aggregating seemingly dissimilar musical styles into spontaneous pieces, Greenwood and Jackie-O Motherfucker's musical work aligns well with many of the tenants of conceptual art. Similarly, Greenwood's musical career can clearly be seen in the materials of his visual work: band posters, paintings on LPs, painted instruments and manipulated pages of *Rolling Stone* magazine. The common thread running through both is a brilliant, collaged fusion of de-contextualized materials into innovative, palpable results, openly encouraging viewers' varied interpretations and responses.



From *The Salem Singers Installation*, 2000-2010
Found/altered sketchbooks, newspaper, photographs, and magazines, with guitar, voice, banjo, turntable, and field recordings. Video, 8 minutes; Edited by Marion Curie

The foundation of Greenwood's visual work is the appropriation of found material. A self-described vintage clothing "picker," through his time spent in Goodwills and other thrift stores he has amassed a sizable collection of half-used sketchbooks, tapestries, photographs, magazine clippings and other interesting finds. These unknowing 'collaborators' come together to invigorate a new narrative, oftentimes only illuminated following their



assemblage. This is indeed the case for *The Salem Singers*, Greenwood's installation at CUE Art Foundation, his first solo show in New York. Comprised of materials collected over the last decade, Greenwood has organized his collage works into an 8-minute film. Each "still" has been organized to tell an imaginary tale of a family of musicians who have moved to the Western United States from Eastern Europe. The family's trials and tribulations are insinuated in the fragmented, diverse imagery and despite disparate origins a cohesive narrative is formed. Much like his music, Greenwood relies on the viewer's own personal experience to tie the generalized elements into a cohesive, meaningful encounter; quietly confident in the beautiful notes he provides along the way.

The installation will consist of *The Salem Singers* video, music by Greenwood and numerous examples of Greenwoods vibrant collages.

(More, over)

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For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

ARTIST'S BIO:

Born in 1966, a child of the high Dakota plains, Tom Greenwood showed inter-media tendencies early on. While in high school he divided his time between visual arts (winning a scholarship from Kodak for his photographic work) and sonic arts (playing *Purple Haze* at biker rallies). He bounced around art schools of the frozen north before ending up on the streets of Minneapolis, where he took his degree in Media Arts.

After spending the end of the 80's immersed in the aesthetic milieu of rural scum rock, creating the splendid Project A-Bomb record label in the process, Greenwood drifted into the open bowels of Manhattan's Lower East Side. Tom found work as an art director and participated in the Maynard Monroe-curated group show, *URBAN ANALYSIS* (with Nan Goldin, Rene Ricard, Lady Pink, etc).

Greenwood ended up in Portland, Oregon in the mid 90's, where he head birthed the seriously disturbed musical project that continues to this day – Jackie O Motherfucker. An extraordinarily mutable feast, Jackie O's music encompasses everything from industrial ho-hum to acid-volk ready-mades, and has included hundreds of participants over its lifespan. Under the influence of mysterious Northwest bohemians (often associated to some degree with The Holy Modal Rounders), Greenwood studied how to spin garbage into garlands. This technique proved invaluable when he drifted back to New York City, where he connected with Thurston Moore, who encouraged his conceptual moves.

In the 21st Century, Greenwood has created dual vistas of strangeness, all of them whistling like the rings around the o-mind. The musical projects – Jackie O, the U-SOUND series, various shows and galleries – have blended into the visual ones, and splattered in a million unexpected directions.

—Byron Coley, Deerfield, MA, March 2008

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers who are themselves selected by a rotating advisory council from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

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