

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



JIM DRAIN AND ARA PETERSON HYPNOGOOGIA

**November 4 – December 24, 2005
18 Wooster Street**

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *Hypnogoogia*, a collaborative installation by Jim Drain and Ara Peterson. In this incredible cumulative show, 18 Wooster St. is transformed into an interactive, spinning landscape— a psychedelic music of the spheres featuring work produced by the artists over the past two years.

Moving through corridors of rainbow pinwheels, a huge kaleidoscope hallway, and four exactly gorgeous geodesic sphere-shaped paintings rotating slowly on the ground and ceiling, the viewer becomes immersed in their lyrical, spherical environment. Hypnotically spinning on the first platform is a twelve-foot rainbow ottoman, and above, a video feed throwing the spinning participants on the wall upstairs.

This show brings to ambitious fruition much of the imagery with which Jim and Ara have been working for the past few years, where radiant disks and morphing spherical forms found in their collages, wall drawings, and video projects, are found here expanded to full three-dimensionality and human scale. Evocative of Duchamp's Rotoreliefs, hypnotist's spiral devices, fun house accoutrements and late 60's environmentalist architecture, the conjunction of the multiple types of spinning spheres have the effect of transporting you to a different state of receptive consciousness.

As suggested by the title, distended by the extra roundness of a few O's, one uniting theme of the exhibition is hypnogoogia: the highly surreal state of waking sleep that you

can sometimes catch while nodding off, a heightened-reality high, where sensory data is enhanced and isolated in a waking dreamstate. The subject of the cult book *Hypnagogia*, by Andreas Mavromatis and of so much interest to the Surrealist movement, the hypnogogic state can feature visions, voices, weird insights and unusual sensations that greet us as we drift out of consciousness. Faces may appear, threatening or comical. A landscape may open up, with distant mountains and wide, expansive vistas. Geometric forms, jewels, diamonds and intricate patterns may dance before our mind's eye, not unlike those seen under the influence of certain psychoactive substances.

Jim and Ara are two Providence-based artists who have been collaborating in different ways over the past ten years, initially as two members of the group Forcefield, whose exciting project in the 2002 Whitney Biennial was one of the major events in new artmaking today. This show brings together work from the artists that has been presented at other venues around the world in their past exciting year. The geodesic spheres were developed in collaboration with Eamon Brown during a residency at Pittsburg's Mattress Factory, one sphere being shown in the Lyon Biennial, 2004, curated by Bob Nikas. Some of the pinwheels were a component of the *Wiggin Village* installation at the Moore Space in Miami, December 2004, curated by Larry Rinder. A smaller version of the kaleidoscope piece was first shown at Greene Naftali in 2003. This exhibition will have a catalogue available
January

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