

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



## **JON KESSLER** ***GLOBAL VILLAGE IDIOT*** **April 24 – June 5, 2004** **76 Grand Street**

*Global Village Idiot*, an ambitious exhibition of new work by Jon Kessler, opens April 24<sup>th</sup> at Deitch Projects. The show reflects a post 9/11 sensibility, modeling a dystopic reality where life is compromised by a feeling of anxiety, fragility and terror. The work represents a new perception of the constructions that surround us. It incorporates the sense of living on the edge, and the "provisional" quality that pervades our lives. Pairing event and spectacle Kessler explores such themes as the anxiety of air travel, terrorism, internet porn, reality television, special effects and surveillance.

There is a rawness and immediacy to the work as well as a sense of play that reflects the process of how it was made. The mechanisms are left visible and there is little or no attempt to "finish" the pieces. Once the pieces work, both conceptually and mechanically, they are left in this prototype stage with all the clamps, straps and tape necessary to keep them assembled.

Kessler's earlier works were mounted on the wall and tended to be read as animated paintings. The new works are all floor pieces and in Kessler's words, "insist on their sculpturalness." They are mechanical events to be experienced, not just looked at. His use of surveillance cameras is a new development. Elaborate mechanical constructions are coupled with video monitors and flat screen LCDs. The mechanisms are being filmed and edited in real time. The relationship between the mediated spectacle and the mechanical event is symbiotic, one needing and continually trying to complete the other.

**CONTINUED ON REVERSE**

Jon Kessler was born in Yonkers, NY in 1957. He received a BFA from SUNY Purchase and attended the Whitney Independent Study Program. His first New York exhibition was in 1983 at Artists Space. Since then he has exhibited widely in America, Europe and Asia. His collaborative work with Paul Auster was presented at the Hermès Forum, Tokyo this spring. Kessler's work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. The Hermes Forum, Tokyo presented an exhibition of his work this spring in collaboration with Paul Auster. Kessler is Chair Division of Visual Arts, School of Arts, Columbia University. He is co-founder of Bozart Toys, a company that manufactures artist's toys.

*Global Village Idiot* is Jon Kessler's first New York exhibition in ten years.

**GALLERY HOURS 12-6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
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