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OLEG KULIK

I BITE AMERICA AND AMERICA BITES ME

APRIL 12 — APRIL 26, 1997

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *I BITE AMERICA AND AMERICA BITES ME*, the first American exhibition of the work of the Russian performance artist Oleg Kulik. Kulik will arrive from New York from Moscow, not as a man but as a dog. He will spend his two weeks in New York as a dog, living in a heavily secured dog house in the gallery. Visitors to the gallery will be invited to put on protective suits and enter the structure to interact with the dog. Viewers of Kulik's previous performances in Europe have been stunned by the degree of his transformation from man to dog.

During the past two years Kulik has become both celebrated and notorious for his public performances in Zürich, Stockholm,

Rotterdam and other European cities. In Rotterdam, Kulik spent the duration of last summer's *Manifesta* exhibition as "Pavlov's Dog," the subject of scientific experiments on animal behavior. Naked and chained, he was taken on walks through the city. In his performance at Deitch projects, Kulik is responding to Joseph Beuys' famous 1974 work *I Like America and America Likes Me*, where he spent five days living with a coyote in Rene Block's New York gallery. In his work, Kulik is reversing the roles of man and animal.

Oleg Kulik's collaborator in this work is Mila Bredikhina.

BEWARE OF DOG!

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