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76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



SESSION THE BOWL **DECEMBER 14 -FEBRUARY 15, 2003** **OPENING SATURDAY DEC. 14TH , 6-9PM**

Deitch Projects is excited to present one of its most ambitious exhibition and performance projects, *Session the Bowl*. The central element of the project is *Free Basin*, the enormous wooden empty swimming pool sculpture/skateboard bowl created by Simparch. An exhibition of new painting, drawing, photography and video by thirty-three artists associated with the skateboard culture will be presented on the surrounding walls. The project also includes a series of organized and impromptu skate demos. There will be a skate demo by the 5Boro crew on opening night, December 14th.

Free Basin is part sculpture, part architecture, part stage for performance. It is also an astonishing hand made wooden kidney shaped swimming pool, with a smoothly buffed surface built for skateboarding. The work was first presented at the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago in the spring of 2000, was included in the exhibition *Mood River* at the Wexner Center in 2002, and was recently featured in Documenta.

The viewer first approaches *Free Basin* through its underside, walking through the trusses and support structure. A stairway leads to the upper level where one looks down on the empty pool. It is a completely unexpected and disconcerting experience to find this ambiguous structure wedged into an art gallery.

The skateboard culture has been a remarkable generator of artistic innovation. Many legendary skateboarders are also artists and musicians. Chris Johanson, who will have a concurrent exhibition at Deitch Projects, and Barry McGee, whose work will be included in *Session the Bowl*, are examples of prominent artists whose work is associated with the skateboard culture. In writing about the

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convergence of art and skateboarding for the brochure of the Hyde Park Art Center installation of Free Basin, Hamza Walker described how "in its quest for perfection of form for its own sake, skateboarding is to pavement what Greenberg argued paint is to canvas."

The exhibition component will include more established artists who have been associated with skateboard culture as well as a number of younger artists recommended by members of the skateboard community. Steve Powers (ESPO) has designed a poster with logos for each of the participating artists that will be distributed as a sticker edition.

In conjunction with *Session the Bowl*, Deitch Projects will be presenting a joint project with Alife, the innovative Orchard Street store that fuses street art and street fashion. Alife will create a store in Deitch Projects' 76 Grand Street storefront featuring 60 artists' products.

Simparch was founded in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1996. Simparch's primary interest is how one relates to the commonplace structures of everyday life. Their inspiration is best expressed by Alfred Jarry's words, "Simplicity need not be simple, but condensed and synthesized complexity."

Artists participating in *Session The Bowl*

Opening night performances by:

A-ron the Dirty Rotten Don with Kid America & the Bandy Crew

BARR

Michael Bevilacqua
Thomas Campbell
Deanne Cheuk
Larry Clark
Martha Cooper
Tony Cox
Dalek
Dash
Doze
Cheryl Dunn
Shepard Fairey
Phil Frost
Futura
Ry Fyan
Evan Hecox
Jo Jackson

Todd James
Chris Johanson
SSUR
KAWS
KR
Ari Marcopoulos
Barry McGee
Ryan McGinness
Mike Mills
Steve Powers
J.otto Seibold
RoStarr
Simparch
Ed Templeton
Tobin Yelland

**GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6PM, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
JULIA CHIANG AT 212-343-7300**