



307 Seventh Avenue #1904 New York, NY 10001 Tel.212.206.6674 Fax.212.255.8467 www.creativetime.org

Press contact: Sarah Bacon
212-206-6674 x 205
sarahb@creativetime.org

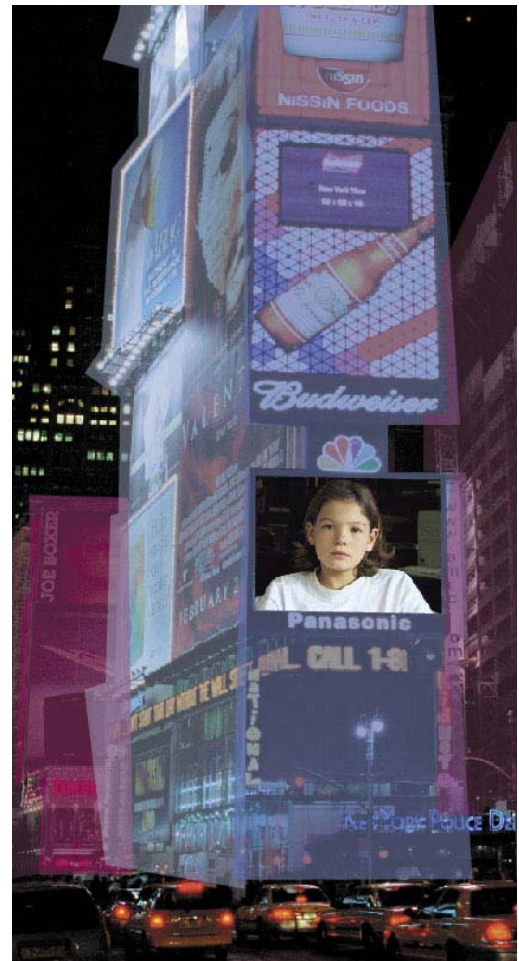
Thomas Struth Takes on Times Square! Creative Time and Panasonic Debut *Video Portraits* on the Astrovision

January 30, 2003: Creative Time and Panasonic are proud to present Thomas Struth in *The 59th Minute: Video Art on the Times Square Astrovision*, which will air in conjunction with the artist's mid-career retrospective, *Thomas Struth*, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art from **February 4 – May 18, 2003**. This selection of Thomas Struth's *Video Portraits* (1996 - 2003) will mark the thirteenth artist in the series, which has included Fischli & Weiss, Mary Lucier, William Wegman, Geneviève Cadieux, Gary Hill, Marco Brambilla, William Kentridge and others. For three years, *The 59th Minute* has offered the Times Square public an opportunity to encounter video art within the world's most dazzling media capital.

Video Portraits will air on the Times Square Astrovision for the duration of the *Thomas Struth* exhibition on the last minute of every hour from 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. except between 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Video Portraits

Situated in the heart of Times Square, Struth's *Video Portraits* speaks to his extensive and evocative documentation in the seventies and eighties of great cities spanning the world (among them New York). The *59th Minute* pairs the arresting and personal intensity of Struth's portraits with the collective animation of Times Square. Each *Video Portrait* showcases a carefully selected subject – an art dealer, an architect, a student, and Struth's godson – gazing calmly at the camera and, by extension, at us. Struth's subjects sit before the camera for one





307 Seventh Avenue #1904 New York, NY 10001 Tel.212.206.6674 Fax.212.255.8467 www.creativetime.org

hour, steady and unmoving except for the occasional blink of an eye. After their initial self-consciousness passes, Struth's subjects sink into meditative, bored, tired, and daydream states. The camera reveals barely perceptible changes in mood and emotion, as evidenced in their shifting eyes and stifled yawns. Struth's restrained use of the medium brilliantly combines the stasis of painting with photography's embrace of the fleeting. For his Times Square premiere, the artist has appropriately selected the final, 59th minute of four *Video Portraits* to calmly hover over the endless movement of this mediapolis.

Thomas Struth

Thomas Struth is known worldwide for his large-scale photographs of empty cities, jungles, flowers, landscapes, and group and individual portraits of friends and family. Struth's photography explores the condition of the structural world and its myriad species with utter objectivity, resulting in often spiritual and breathtaking work. Born in Geldern, Germany, in 1954, Thomas Struth was educated at the Düsseldorf Kunstakademie, Germany where he studied under P. Kleeman, Gerhard Richter, and Bernd and Hilla Becher. His current mid-career retrospective, *Thomas Struth*, which originated at the Dallas Museum of Art, will open at The Metropolitan Museum of Art on February 4, 2003 and run through May 18, 2003. Struth has had solo exhibitions around the globe, including *Thomas Struth: My Portrait* at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; *Thomas Struth STILL* at the Centre National de la Photographie, Paris; *Landschaften* at Achenbach Kunsthandel in, Düsseldorf, Germany; and at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.

Thomas Struth is represented by the Marian Goodman Gallery in New York City.

Creative Time

The 59th Minute, like all programs in Creative Time's 30 year history as a public arts presenter, surprises New Yorkers and visitors alike with fresh artistic content in surprising urban locales. From Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, the skies over Manhattan, and the recent *Tribute in Light* (the temporary light memorial to 9.11.01) to storefronts, milk cartons, deli cups, and billboards, Creative Time supports artists in enlivening the New York cityscape. Times Square is the site of one of Creative Time's most renowned projects, *The 42nd Street Project*, for which the organization commissioned twenty artists in 1993 to create works for derelict marquees, storefronts, and vacancies in Times Square during its redevelopment. Returning to Times Square, *The 59th Minute* exemplifies how public/private partnerships can invigorate the urban landscape and enhance the experience of New York for natives and visitors alike. For more information on Creative Time please visit www.creativetime.org.

Panasonic



307 Seventh Avenue #1904 New York, NY 10001 Tel.212.206.6674 Fax.212.255.8467 www.creativetime.org

The NBC Astrovision by Panasonic is the visual centerpiece of New York City's Times Square, the "Crossroads of the World." Measuring nearly three stories high and four stories wide, the screen – which contains 1.5 million light-emitting diodes (LEDs) is capable of displaying more than a billion shades of color. Each year, millions of people see the Astrovision either on television, in the movies, or when they visit Times Square. And, every New Year's Eve, the landmark video screen helps the more than 500,000 Times Square revelers count down the famous ball drop. Panasonic is the best known brand of New Jersey-based Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, which is the principal North American subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI) (NYSE: MC). Additional information can be found by visiting www.panasonic.com.

Upcoming Creative Time projects:

The Armory Show, March 7 - 9, 2003: Creative Time and Häagen Dazs present a booth full of artist-designed products.

RE: Works by Bill Shannon, March 30, 2003: Creative Time will present three sidewalk performances by dancer Bill Shannon, a.k.a. CrutchMaster, accompanied by an expository website.

Local Frequencies, April 2003: With renowned producer Danny Kapilian, Creative Time presents *Local Frequencies*, in which New York artists Toshi Reagon, Everton Sylvester, and Gabri Christa explore the cultural heritage of their neighborhoods with three 20 minute original compositions to be released on a CD that will be distributed for free city-wide. Other programming will include a free concert and several radio presentations with WFUV's Rita Houston.

Art on the Plaza, May 2003: Creative Time presents the third installation in the long-term public sculpture series on the Plaza of The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park. Artist TBD.

Press Contact: Sarah Bacon at 212-206-6674 x205 or sarahb@creativetime.org