

MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY

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PRESS INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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William Leavitt, Allen Ruppertsberg, Ger van Elk

September 8 through 30, 2009

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of selected works by William Leavitt, Allen Ruppertsberg, and Ger van Elk, on view from 8 through 30 September 2009.

Leavitt, Ruppertsberg, and van Elk—now good friends—entered the burgeoning contemporary arts scene of 1960s Los Angeles as strangers. Ruppertsberg moved from Cleveland to attend The Chouinard Art Institute mid-decade and, through his friend and fellow artist Bas Jan Ader, befriended van Elk. Leavitt, after moving from Boulder to attend graduate school in Claremont, CA in the mid-60s, also met van Elk through Ader and developed a friendship with Ruppertsberg during their shows at Eugenia Butler Gallery. All three artists kept in contact after van Elk's return to his native Amsterdam, in part due to their working relationships with Claire Copley Gallery in Los Angeles and Art & Project in Amsterdam throughout the 1960s and 70s.

In this exhibition, Leavitt, Ruppertsberg, and van Elk will be represented by recent work as well as photographs and drawings created during their early days in Los Angeles. Van Elk can be seen posing in the streets of LA in his *The Co-Founder of the Word O.K.* series, while Leavitt's pastel-on-paper drawings reflect his plans and set designs for melodramas set amidst the artifice of Hollywood. *Five Winning Hands*, a vintage 1971 photo work by Ruppertsberg featuring rounds of poker played in various Los Angeles diners, will be exhibited for the first time.

Leavitt, Ruppertsberg, and van Elk are currently exhibiting work in *In & Out of Amsterdam: Travels in Conceptual Art 1960-1976* at the Museum of Modern Art, NY, which runs through 5 October 2009. *Allen Ruppertsberg: You and Me or the Art of Give and Take*, which will include two new projects, will be on view at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, 12 September–5 December 2009. William Leavitt will exhibit a new installation at LA><ART, 12 September–31 October 2009, and his work will be the subject of a retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, opening in November 2010.

Margo Leavin Gallery is located at 812 North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles.
Gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.
