

PRESS RELEASE

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Michael Joo at Anton Kern Gallery

September 5th – October 5th 2002

Anton Kern Gallery is proud to present Michael Joo's seventh solo show in New York. Opening on September 5th, this is his first solo show after his participation in the Whitney Biennial.



Michael Joo's new work, *The Pack*, consists of fifty plasticine sculptures. Based on taxidermy models for coyote skins, the works question notions of originality and individuality as they relate to figurative sculpture and installation. Arranged on pedestals of varying heights, the work can be seen as both unified whole and series of individual works. The viewer's presence completes this group of stereotypically non-pack animals. Each of the figures is unique and meticulously crafted, belying the thin skin of clay cover that forms each model.

God the second sculpture in the exhibition presents the image of a fur clad figure reclining on a pedestal made of frost and ice. The base upon which this figure lies is formed by the condensed humidity of the space itself and the breath of the viewer. As in *The Pack*, this work disrupts the strategies used to recreate the discourse of reality in the natural history museum, favoring the present and possible futures over the past.

Like Joo's earlier works, *Visible* (1999-2000) and *Assisted* (2000), in which the artist employs his interest in medical anthropology to implicate the social and the failure of the absolute in the scientific model, these works extend the life of the found object and reference craft and customization.

Widely known in America and an established member of the New York art scene, Michael Joo has exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Serpentine Gallery in London, Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Walker Center for the Arts, among others. He is now preparing a solo show for the List Art Center in Boston, MA.

Opening Thursday September 5th, 2002 from 6-8 pm. The show will run until October 5th. Regular gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

For further information, please contact Fernanda Arruda or Michael Clifton at t.212.367.9663, f. 212.3678135 or email akern@jps.net.

October 12th – November 16th, 2002 – New works by David Shrigley.