

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *8 BIT*,
A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ART AND VIDEO GAMES

Film Examines Crossover of Ideas from Gaming Culture to the Fields of Music and Art

8 BIT

October 7, 8:00 p.m.

October 11, 8:30 p.m.

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

New York, September 12, 2006—The Museum of Modern Art presents the world premiere of *8 BIT* (2006), a feature-length documentary exploring the history of artists and video games. This mélange of rockumentary and art exposé examines early hacker culture and interviews contemporary musicians, artists, and programmers who repurpose game hardware, modify existing games, and create original games.

Filmed in New York City, Los Angeles, Paris, and Tokyo, *8 BIT* offers a global perspective on the artistic approaches of those who grew up playing early video games on the Atari and Commodore 64 consoles.

With commentary by media critic and author Ed Halter of *The Village Voice*, and new media curator and writer Christiane Paul of the Whitney Museum, as well as interviews with more than 20 artists and critics, these recent artistic strategies are put in the historical context of modernist and postmodernist discourse and examined as potential examples of a transition into fresh, uncharted territory.

8 BIT argues that in the 21st century, GameBoy rock, machinima, and game theory belong together and share a common root: the digital heritage of Generation X.

According to organizer Barbara London, “*8 BIT* ably chronicles the modernist and post-modernist tendencies in the relatively recent history of video game-based art, but also suggests that the bit-bending antics of the post-video game generation hint at a new current in the uncharted waters of 21st century art history.”

8 BIT. (2006). USA. Original concept and direction by Marcin Ramocki. Produced and co-directed by Justin Strawhand. With artists Cory Arcangel, BIT SHIFTER, Bodenstandig 2000, Bubblyfish, Covox, Mary Flanagan, Alex Galloway, Gameboyzz Orchestra, Glomag, HUAROTRON, JODI, Paul Johnson, John Klima, Johan Kotlinski, Nullsleep, Joe McKay, Tom Moody, Akiko Sakaizumi, Eddo Stern, TEAMTENDO, Treewave, Chiaki Watanabe, and Carlo Zanni; curator Isabelle Arvers; media critic Ed Halter; and new media curator/writer Christiane Paul.

The premiere of *8 BIT* is organized by Barbara London, Associate Curator, Department of Film and Media, The Museum of Modern Art.

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday

Film Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)

Call (212) 708-9400 or go to www.moma.org for detailed museum information.

Call Justin Strawhand at (551) 689-0615, email info@8bitmovie.com, or visit www.8bitmovie.com for more info on the film.