

# IMPORT PROJECTS

KEITHSTRASSE 10 / 10787 BERLIN

## Press Release

### GORDIAN CONVIVIALITY

#### ARTISTS:

Cory Arcangel  
Juliette Bonneviot  
Chris Coy  
Oliver Laric  
Lindsay Lawson  
Lorna Mills  
Frieda-Raye Green  
Evan Roth

#### CURATOR:

Max Schreier

#### VENUE:

### IMPORT PROJECTS

Keithstrasse 10  
10787 Berlin  
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18.03.-04.05.2013

OPENING TIMES  
THURSDAY-SATURDAY  
12-18 H  
AND BY APPOINTMENT

x

**VERNISSAGE**  
**16TH MAR**

**FINISSAGE**  
**04TH MAY**

**8 - 11PM**



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## GORDIAN CONVIVIALITY

Ilya Illich's 1973 *Tools for Conviviality* set an example for the potential utilitarian ethics of the technological age. He advocated for the responsible use of technology, and the development of advanced new methods for the consumption of knowledge. In "Gordian Conviviality," nine artists who all work with and within technology address the responsible role of new tools for making art. The tools for creating digital work are becoming increasingly easy to use, and the novelty of the materials is no longer enough to warrant display. Meaningful art comes from a nuanced approach to creating work that not only utilizes the newest innovations in technology, but also is thoughtful and considerate of its place in the linear motion of art history.

The artists in "Gordian Conviviality" make art using technology, as opposed to using art as a way to display technology. Taking advantage of the materials afforded them, including the most recent RED cameras, 1080 HDTV, .gifs, laser prints on photo paper, as well as obsolete pencil plotters, all of the works in the show use technological means to make beautiful objects. While the works are obviously put together using these methods, they are not primarily about the tools of their construction.

Grouping work through the abstract approach of evaluating the motivations behind the use of materials is messy in its own right, as it creates Gordian, or potentially unsolvable, levels of confusion and inconsistency. The pleasure of the viewing experience comes from trying to untangle the mess, and the only true means of organizing the chaos is by cheating and cutting it at some point. The positions of Gordian Conviviality are not presented as an answer to questions and frustrations surrounding the use of technology to make art, but rather as a challenge and opportunity to make sense of what is an impossible inquiry; the satisfaction is not in the disentangling, but in the attempts to do so.

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**Cory Arcangel** is a Brooklyn-based artist who makes work in a wide range of media, including composition, video, modified video games, performance, and the Internet. Recent exhibitions include »Masters« at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2012-13), "Pro Tools" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2011), "Beat the Champ" at the Barbican, London (2011), and "Here Comes Everybody" at the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2010-11). His online work, source code, ephemera, mp3s, etc, etc, can be found at [www.coryarcangel.com](http://www.coryarcangel.com).

**Juliette Bonneviot** (b. 1983, Paris, France) graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2008, she lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Shanghai Gesture 2', Wilkinson Gallery, London (2012); 'Pumping Dancers' CEO, Malmö (2012). Recent and current group exhibitions include 'Analogital', Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City (2013), 'The Dark Cube', Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012); 'Very abstract and really figurative', Galerie Emanuel Layr, Vienna (2012); 'entrance entrance', Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin (2012). Upcoming group exhibitions include 'After School Special' (performance), Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen (2013) and 'False Optimism', Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (2013).

**Chris Coy** is an artist and filmmaker who has shown work at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, the Sundance Film Festival, the Netherlands Media Art Institute and numerous international art festivals and group exhibitions. [www.seecoy.com](http://www.seecoy.com)

**Frieda-Raye Green** is a Canadian artist currently based in Vancouver. Her art is an ongoing project drawing attention to the meditative, enigmatic, and humorous moments in everyday life. Her works are dreamlike explorations of the technological consciousness, and take a particular interest in injecting contemplative spaces into personal interact

**Oliver Laric's** work seeks to parse the productive potential of the bootleg and the remix, and examine their role in the formation of both historic and contemporary image cultures. This process is intimately tied to his intuitive, idiosyncratic brand of scholarship, which he presents through an ongoing series of fugue-like expository videos (Versions, 2009—present), and further elaborates through his appropriated object works, videos, and sculptures, all of which are densely conceptually layered and often make use of recondite, technologically sophisticated methods of fabrication. Straddling the liminal spaces between the past and the present, the authentic and the inauthentic, the original and its subsequent reflections and reconfigurations, Laric's work collapses categories and blurs boundaries in a manner that calls into question their very existence.

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**Lindsay Lawson** (b. 1982, Biloxi, USA) is an artist currently based in Berlin. She received her MFA from UCLA in Los Angeles and studied at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. Her practice spans a wide variety of media and including video, performance, sculpture, photography, and cinema. Lawson has recently exhibited at Yossi Milo Gallery (New York), Otras Obras (Tijuana), LAXART (Los Angeles), Tidens Krav (Oslo), and Kavi Gupta Gallery (Berlin). Upcoming exhibitions include Telemark Contemporary Art Center (Skien, NO), the Biennial of the Americas (Denver, USA) and Cell Project Space (London, UK).

Canadian artist **Lorna Mills** has actively exhibited her work in both solo and group exhibitions since the early 1990's, both in Canada and Internationally. Her practice has included obsessive Ilfochrome printing, obsessive painting, obsessive super 8 film & video, and obsessive animated GIFs incorporated into restrained installation work. She has also worked as a game programmer since 1994.

**Evan Roth** (b. 1978, USA) is an American artist based in Paris who applies a hacker philosophy to an art practice that visualizes transient moments in public space, online and in popular culture. Roth's work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art NYC and has been exhibited at various institutions, including the Centre Pompidou, the Kunsthalle Wien, the Tate, the Fondation Cartier and the front page of Youtube. In 2012, Roth was awarded the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award. Roth is also co-founder of the Graffiti Research Lab and the Free Art & Technology Lab (F.A.T. Lab), a web based, open source research and development lab. Roth currently has a solo exhibition, Casual Computing, on display at the University of Maryland's Kibel gallery (closing May 10). And from March 27 to April 12, Roth is presenting Flight Mode, a solo exhibition at Aksioma Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**Max Schreier** was born in 1985 in New York City. He is an independent curator and the Associate Director at DUVE Berlin.

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## ABOUT IMPORT PROJECTS:

IMPORT projects is a nonprofit curatorial initiative founded in 2012 by Anja Henckel and Nadim Samman. Hosting exhibitions, performances and symposia, IMPORT provides an experimental platform for contemporary cultural production and debate, primarily exploring the intersection of technology, personal identity and community. While physically operating out of Berlin, IMPORT engages global concerns.

## CO-DIRECTORS – ANJA MARINA HENCKEL & NADIM JULIEN SAMMAN

**Anja Marina Henckel** is an artist and photographer based in Berlin and London. Prior to completing her Fine Art studies at the University of the Arts London she studied history and geography in Berlin. Committed to cultural exchange, since 2006 Anja has worked as Tourdirector for EF Educational Tours throughout Europe. Her passion and knowledge in European history, art and architecture has found a new voice since she has started conducting Art & Architecture Tours for NICHE Berlin in early 2012. [www.aniahenckel.co.uk](http://www.aniahenckel.co.uk)

**Nadim Julien Samman** read Philosophy at University College London before completing a doctorate at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He has written for publications including Third Text, The Art Newspaper, Art review, Contemporary, Asian Affairs, Art India, Artchronika, Erotic review, Naked Punch, Under/current and WestEast. In 2011 he was Co-curator of One of a Thousand Ways to Defeat Entropy – an Official Collateral Project of the 54th Venice Biennale, and in 2012 he curated the 4th Marrakech Biennale with Carson Chan. He is a member of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA). [www.nadimsamman.com](http://www.nadimsamman.com)

[www.import-projects.org](http://www.import-projects.org)