

REVISITING AMERICA

CURATED BY: amani olu

EXHIBITING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Timothy Briner, Jon Feinstein, Matthew Gamber, Justin James Reed, Angie Smith, Brian Ulrich and Michael Vahrenwald

OPENING RECEPTION: Wednesday, October 15, 2008

PRESS PREVIEW: 4 – 6 pm | **PUBLIC RECEPTION:** 6 – 9 pm

ON VIEW: Wednesday, October 15 – Saturday, November 15, 2008

BOND STREET GALLERY

297 Bond Street | Brooklyn, NY 11231 (Carroll Gardens)

718.858.2297 | **DIRECTIONS:** F/G to Carroll St. or R to Union St.

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday | 11 am – 6 pm

BOND STREET GALLERY is pleased to present *Revisiting America*, a group show curated by **amani olu**. This exhibition explores the shift in American culture following the Second World War, and how that shift has influenced American values today.

Timothy Briner, Justin James Reed, Michael Vahrenwald and **Angie Smith** each address the dichotomy inherent in economic progress. Briner intimately photographs the people and spaces in various towns named Boonville across the country. His pictures capture the remnants of small-town America despite the rapid development of strip malls and suburban hegemony. Reed examines how homogeneity in corporate development has created an unfamiliar and unnatural American landscape. Seeing with a subtler eye, Vahrenwald photographs the empty spaces between agriculture and commercial architecture. He uses ambient light from the parking lots that parallel these spaces to create a sense of leftover, discarded landscape. Similarly, Smith photographs newly developed residential communities. Her images offer a less bleak view of development, depicting how people inhabit these once isolated environments.

Jon Feinstein and **Brian Ulrich** use consumerism to draw conclusions about American behavior. Feinstein's simultaneously alluring and repulsive imagery begs the viewer to reconsider fast food consumption, while Ulrich's portraits document the tedious consumer experience, providing a window onto the perfunctory ritual of "big box" shopping.

Finally, **Matthew Gamber** creates photograms of iconic American television shows such as *Leave it to Beaver*, *Hogan's Hero* and *I Love Lucy*. Using the television as a light source, these photograms deal with advent of technology and ideologies of the day.

About the Curator

amani olu, 28, is the founder and executive director of Humble Arts Foundation and the director/curator of BOND STREET GALLERY. Originally from Philadelphia, he relocated to New York City in August 2005 to establish Humble as a resource for emerging art photographers. From 2003 – 2005, he published *b.informed*, a quarterly lifestyle magazine that combined elements of documentary photography, graphic art, music and fashion. He lives in Brooklyn.

BIOGRAPHIES

Timothy Briner

Timothy Briner (b. 1981) is an American photographer living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Raised in Indiana, Briner moved to Massachusetts to attend the Hallmark Institute of Photography in 1999. Briner recently returned from a year-long journey in which he documented six small towns across the continental United States, all named Boonville. Briner's work has been exhibited locally and nationally.

Jon Feinstein

Jon Feinstein is a photographer and curator based in NYC. His work has been published in *Gotham*, *Nylon*, *Heeb*,

New York Press, and *Vice* and has been exhibited throughout the United States. He is also the curatorial director for the art-photography non-profit Humble Arts Foundation. He has curated numerous exhibitions, most recently "Young Curators New Ideas," and "31 under 31: Young Women in Art Photography." Jon holds a BA in photography from Bard College.

Matthew Gamber

Matthew Gamber earned an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University. He is currently an imaging technician with Imaging & Preservation at Harvard University, and Editor-in-Chief of *Big RED & Shiny*. He has taught at Savannah College of Art & Design, Art Institute of Boston/Lesley University, College of the Holy Cross, and Massachusetts College of Art & Design. Gamber is represented by Gallery Kayafas in Boston, Massachusetts.

Justin James Reed

Justin James Reed (b. 1981) received his MFA in photography from the Tyler School of Art in Elkins Park, Pa. His photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and are in numerous private collections. He teaches at the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Tyler School of Art, and The College of New Jersey. He lives in Pennsylvania.

Angie Smith

Angie Smith is a freelance photographer based in Los Angeles. Originally from Eugene, Oregon, she moved to upstate New York to attend Bard College in 1999. After studying photography for four years with Larry Fink, she moved to New York City to start her career. In 2007, Angie left New York to return to her West Coast roots. She now resides in Los Angeles. She continues to exhibit her work, as well as shoots for magazines nationwide. Her work has appeared in publications such as *The New York Times Magazine*, *Forbes*, *Budget Travel*, and *Men's Journal*.

Brian Ulrich

Brian Ulrich was born 1971 in Northport, NY. His photographs portray contemporary consumer culture. His first monograph, *Copia* was published in 2006 by Aperture as part of the *MP3: Midwest Photographers Project*. In 2007 Ulrich was named one of the years 30 Emerging Photographers by *Photo District News* magazine, and a critic's pick by Richard Woodward for *ARTnews* magazine.

His work has been recently featured in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Orion Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Mother Jones magazine*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Artforum*, *Harper's*, *La Frabricca*, *Leica World*, *Phat Photo* (Japan), and as a frequent contributor to the like-minded magazine *Adbusters*.

Brian is represented by Rhona Hoffman Gallery in Chicago, Robert Koch Gallery in San Francisco, and Julie Saul Gallery in New York.

Michael Vahrenwald

Michael Vahrenwald is a photographer who lives and works in New York City. His work has been shown at a variety of venues including the Whitney Museum, New York and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. His work will be included in the upcoming show "Worlds Away" at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, PA. He is currently a Visiting Professor of Photography at Bard College and The Cooper Union.