

Renewal: Part I
2011 May 13th – May 28th.
250 Broome Street
www.renewalexhibition.org

Artwork by Kenny Komer and Boris Rasin
Curated by Kai Matsumiya

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (May 11th, 2011).

Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya, RenewalExhibition@gmail.com, 617 678 4440.

The Installation is available for viewing 24 hours a day until the close of exhibition.

Opening Reception: May 13th, 7pm – 10 pm, at Ten Bells, across the street from the exhibition.

In light of the recent natural disasters in Japan and Haiti, our vision is to curate a contemporary arts exhibition entitled “Renewal: Part I” based on the simple observation that natural disaster promotes expression of universal human solidarity; and collective reflection on the proper relation of the human being to his or her aesthetic environment. The devastating wreckage suggests possibilities of improved modes of living just as much as it signals the enormity of human suffering.

With these simple observations in mind, we present to the public works that instantiate the themes of the regenerative possibilities inherent in disaster, destruction, or decay; themes reinforced by the no-longer-defunct space, within an abandoned storefront at 250 Broome Street which would serve as the site of exhibition. Through the generous support of *No Longer Empty* (www.nolongerempty.org), an arts organization which seeks to develop high-caliber exhibitions in abandoned storefronts, and *Community Board 3* in Manhattan, the first part of the two part series of *Renewal* was made possible by the *Arts in Empty Spaces* initiative. As part of the *Festival of New Ideas* (www.festivalofideasnyc.com), *Renewal: Part I* contributes to the conversation of creative regeneration and rebuilding unused urban spaces.



Inside View of Renewal: Part I. Only viewed from outside.

We thus present *Renewal, Part I*, which simulates the lonely and helpless beginnings wrought by the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes in Haiti and Japan, respectively from the real-time perspective. Enormous forces of nature swept away all man-made objects with a horrific and unforgiving power, ripping through the fabric of aesthetic landscapes and psychological realities. Within today’s digitally interconnected age, the entire world debated, contemplated, and speculated about the story of a lonely fishing boat slowly enveloping from the center of a giant whirlpool off of the coast of Oarai. It is unclear what became of this boat.

The site-specific installation by Kenny Komer and Boris Rasin displays a lifelike figure sitting behind the bar with his back to the storefront façade at 250 Broome Street. The figure peers at a large television set in which the spectator observes the helpless news from the outside windows, akin to the perspective of an often voyeuristic spectator peering through a half-open *shoji* door. The television plays the looped video displaying news footage of the haunting and memorable image from the Japanese tsunami of the whirlpool enveloping a mysterious large boat in circles. The whereabouts of the boat are unknown, as are those that manned the ship. The TV is the only light source within the space.

Renewal: Part I will be available for viewing for 24 hours in a day and 7 days a week from May 7th to May 30th.

The *Renewal: Part II* project will conclude in July with a curated group exhibition and installation. Location and schedule TBD.

A special thanks to No Longer Empty, Forrest Partners LLC, Community Board 3 in Manhattan, Motus Fort Art Gallery, and Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center.

**100% of net proceeds will be donated to disaster relief organizations of our choice with an emphasis on Haiti and Japan.



RENEWAL: Part I
2011 May 13th-May 30th
(Renewal: Part II TBD)
Opening Reception: May 13th, 6pm-9pm

250 Broome Street
Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,
RenewalExhibition@gmail.com
www.renewalexhibition.org

Boris Rasin and Kenny Komer are Brooklyn-based multimedia artists who have been collaborating on sculptures, installations and public art projects since 2005. Their work explores the social, political, architectural and utilitarian relationships between viewers and their environments. Rasin and Komer are also the founding members of the guerilla street art collective Concerned New Yorkers.

Boris Rasin was born in Kiev, Ukraine in 1982. He received a BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art (05).
Kenny Komer was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1984. He received a BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art (06).

2011

The Old Stone House, New Histories, Old Stone House, NY

2010

Rites of Passage, 41 Cooper Gallery NY

2009

Art in Odd Places: Sign, NY

Public Ad Campaign, NY

The Living and the Dead, Gavin Brown Enterprises, NY

The Sum and All Parts, 427 Manhattan Ave, NY

2008

Art in Odd Places: Pedestrian, NY

Art into Action, Action into Art, TNC Gallery, NY

Everybody In, Rush Arts Gallery, NY

2007

Site Specific '07, Islip Art Museum, NY

2006

Below the Highline, Melody Weir Gallery, NY

Night Shift, White Box, NY

2005

Helter Skelter, Capsule Gallery, NY

RENEWAL: Part I
2011 May 13th-May 28th
(Renewal: Part II TBD)
Opening Reception: May 13th, 6pm-9pm

250 Broome Street
Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,
RenewalExhibition@gmail.com
www.renewalexhibition.org

Notable Press for Boris Rasin and Kenny Komer

2010

DNAinfo.com, *Posters, Become the Newest Forum in 'Ground Zero Mosque' Debate*, 9-23
HyperAllergic.com, *"Concerned New Yorkers" Hatch Poster Project for Park 51*, 9-20
Art Threat, *Posters invite your thoughts on "Ground Zero Mosque"* 9-20
NY Press, *Dialogue with Power*, 9-15
HuffingtonPost.com, *Whose Concern? NYC Street Art Makes Waves*, 9-14
The Telegraph - Calcutta, *Scrawled at Ground Zero: point and counter-point*, 9-12
Gothamist.com, *Park 51 Mosque Supporters, Opponents Face Off on 9/11*, 9-12
L Magazine, *Anti-New Museum Posters Spotted on Bowery, in Chelsea*, 3-11
Hyperallergic.com, *New Museum Ethics Quagmire Gets Its Own Unofficial Ad Campaign*, 3-9
Art21 Blog, *An Artist's Day Job*, 7-7

2009

AM New York, *Get Ready for Mayor Monty: cartoon's 'campaign' kicks into gear*, 12-22
HuffingtonPost.com, *Mr. Burns Gets Most Write-In Votes in New York Mayor Race*, 12-06
CNN.com, *Simpsons Billionaire Gets Most Write-In Votes In NYC Mayor Race*, 12-05
The New York Daily News, *'Simpsons' Boss Mr. Burns, Derek Jeter, Howard Stern Get Write-In Votes in Mayoral Election*, 12-04
Gothamist.com, *Mr. Burns Wins NYC Mayoral Election (If It Was Just Write-in Votes)*, 12-04
CNN.com, *An 'excellent' choice for mayor?*, 10-06
New York Magazine, *The Approval Matrix: Week of 10-5*
Forbes.com, *No Third Terms for Mr. Burns*, 10-4
Nymag.com, *Daily Intel, Montgomery Burns Launches Mayoral Campaign*, 9-22
NBC New York, *Excellent: New Yorkers Enlist Monty Burns for Mayor*, 9-22
Gothamist.com, *Monty Burns for Mayor*, 9-22
New York Times: City Room Blog, *Excellent! Would Smithers Make a Good Deputy?* 9-22
New York Daily News, *Mr. Burns versus Mayor Bloomberg*, 9-22
Village Voice, *Montgomery Burns for Mayor: Change We Can Believe In* 9-22

2008

The Brooklyn Rail, *Pedestrian*, 10-1
Time Out New York, *This Week in New York*, 9-30

RENEWAL: Part I

2011 May 7^h-May 30th

(Renewal: Part II TBD)

Opening Reception: May 13th, 7pm-10 pm:
Across the Street from exhibition at Ten Bells

Viewing: Available now. 24 hours a day.

250 Broome Street

Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,

RenewalExhibition@gmail.com

www.renewalexhibition.org



View from Inside.

RENEWAL: Part I

2011 May 7^h-May 30th

(Renewal: Part II TBD)

Opening Reception: May 13th, 7pm-10 pm:

Across the Street from exhibition at Ten Bells.

Viewing: Available now. 24 hours a day.

250 Broome Street

Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,

RenewalExhibition@gmail.com

www.renewalexhibition.org



Snapshot of looped video.

RENEWAL: Part I
2011 May 7^h-May 30th
(Renewal: Part II TBD)

Opening Reception: May 13th, 7pm-10 pm:
Across the Street from exhibition at Ten Bells

Viewing: Available now. 24 hours a day.

250 Broome Street

Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,

RenewalExhibition@gmail.com

www.renewalexhibition.org



View of the outside storefront at
250 Broome Street (*in progress*)

RENEWAL: Part I
2011 May 7^h-May 30th
(Renewal: Part II TBD)

Opening Reception: May 13th, 7pm-10 pm:
Across the Street from exhibition at Ten Bells.

Viewing: Available now. 24 hours a day.
250 Broome Street
Press Contact: Kai Matsumiya,
RenewalExhibition@gmail.com
www.renewalexhibition.org



After: The Renovated Space at 250 Broome Street.