

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts: Natascha Bodemann | 646 388 6677 | nbodemann@fiaf.org

CROSSING **CT** THE LINE
2012

**French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)
together with The Invisible Dog Art Center**

presents

Steven & William Ladd, *Shaboygen*

Saturday, September 15–Wednesday, November 3, 2012
Opening Reception Saturday, September 15, 6–10pm
Performances by the Artists at 7 & 9pm
The Invisible Dog Art Center

New York, New York, August 16, 2012—As part of the sixth edition of *Crossing the Line* 2012, FIAF's annual transdisciplinary festival of contemporary arts, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) and The Invisible Dog Art Center present *Shaboygen*, the debut New York solo exhibition of Brooklyn-based brothers Steven and William Ladd. A meticulously crafted installation exploring visceral memories of their adolescence, *Shaboygen* will be on view at The Invisible Dog Art Center in Brooklyn, NY from September 15 through November 3, 2012. The opening reception will take place on Saturday, September 15, from 6–10pm.

Drawing on their background in couture, sculpture, and performance, artists Steven and William Ladd use locally-sourced materials to create unique, energetic works inspired by their childhood memories and day-to-day shared life experiences.

In *Shaboygen*, Steven and William recall the memory of escaping a fiery death one morning when their car was suddenly engulfed in flames while they were on their way to school. To resurrect this memorable event, the brothers created intricately sewn, handmade boxes containing scrolled belts in various shades of red. Lined with angora bunny hair, the scrolls seem to be smoldering. The textile landscape appears painstaking yet spontaneous, creating an intimate, emotional piece that reflects the creative process behind the work, as well as the personal story it recalls.



french institute
alliance française

22 East 60th Street
New York, NY 10022

T. 212 355 6100
F. 212 935 4119

info@fiaf.org
www.fiaf.org

Emphasizing the relationship between the artists and their venue, Steven and William use leftover materials, including belts, trimmings, and buckles scavenged from the Invisible Dog Art Center, a former belt factory. The exhibit will open with a performance in which the brothers ritualistically open and rearrange the boxes in rhythmic, choreographed movements.

.....
About Steven and William Ladd

Brooklyn-based artists and brothers Steven and William Ladd have dedicated the past eleven years to collaborating on hand sewn boxes containing meticulously constructed environments related to their shared memories. Their core values, “Spend your life doing what you love, Be focused and disciplined, and Collaborate” are embedded in the work, and indeed, in their lives. When closed and stacked, the boxes become sculptural Towers, majestic works of art—at rest until the Towers are dismantled and the contents revealed. It is often through a rhythmic and choreographed performance that the brothers open the boxes and arrange them in their landscape formations. Steven and William Ladd’s works are in the permanent collections of several museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art Watson Library, The Museum of Modern Art Research Library, The Corning Museum of Glass, The Contemporary Museum Hawaii, the Decorative Arts Museum at the Louvre; and, in the private collections of arts patrons Beth Rudin DeWoody, Shelley and Philip Aarons, and John Studzinski.

Current and upcoming exhibitions for Steven and William include *New. New York*, Essl Museum - Contemporary Art, Austria (2012); *Neue Now!* Neue Gallerie, New York (2012); *Bad For You*, Frieze Art Fair, London (2012); *Steven and William Ladd: Mary Queen of the Universe*, Parrish Art Museum, New York (2014).

.....
About Crossing the Line 2012

Crossing the Line is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)’s annual fall festival presenting interdisciplinary works and performances created by artists from around the world in New York. The festival provides opportunities for New Yorkers to explore the dialogue between artist and participant, examine how artists help re-imagine the world, and engage in the vital role artists play as critical thinkers and catalysts for social evolution. Curated by Lili Chopra, Artistic Director of FIAF, Simon Dove, Director of the Herberger Institute School of Dance at Arizona State University, and Gideon Lester, Director of Theater Programs at Bard College, *Crossing the Line* is initiated and produced by FIAF in partnership with leading cultural institutions and takes place this year from September 14–October 14, 2012.

Inaugurated in 2007, *Crossing the Line* has enjoyed increasingly strong audience response from diverse segments of the New York City area, as well as critical acclaim. The festival was voted “Best of 2009” and “Best of 2010” by *Time Out New York*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. *The New York Times* has said, “The French Institute Alliance Française’s annual *Crossing the Line* has carved out a particular identity as an invigorating, unpredictable, occasionally provocative mix of genres and disciplines...It’s the artistic equivalent of a splash of water on the face.”

About The Invisible Dog Art Center

Opened in 2009, The Invisible Dog Art Center is a raw space in a vast converted factory building with a charmed history and an open-ended mission: to create, from the ground up, a new kind of interdisciplinary arts center. Over the last year, more than 32,000 people have attended events at the Invisible Dog: visual art exhibits; dance, theater, and music performance; film screenings; literary; arts and poetry; and more.

www.theinvisibledog.org

About FIAF



french institute
alliance française

22 East 60th Street
New York, NY 10022

T. 212 355 6100
F. 212 935 4119

info@fiaf.org
www.fiaf.org

FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression. <http://www.fiaf.org>

Merci!

FIAF would like to thank the following for their generous support of *Crossing the Line* 2012:

Nespresso, Presenting Sponsor of *Crossing the Line* 2012.

American Airlines, the Official Airline of FIAF; 972, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Institut français; Florence Gould Foundation; The French-American Fund for Contemporary Theater, a Program of FACE; FUSED (French-U.S. Exchange in Dance); Fondation d'entreprise Hermès; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The Enoch Foundation; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; Interaudi Bank; The Museum for African Art; Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques; Netherlands Cultural Services; The Netherland-America Foundation; APAP Cultural Exchange; and Robert de Rothschild

Special thanks to Arizona State University.



LISTING SUMMARY

What: *Crossing the Line 2012: Steven and William Ladd, Shaboygen*
When: Saturday, September 15 – Saturday, November 3
 Opening Reception Saturday, September 15, 6–10pm
 Performances by the artists at 7 & 9pm
Where: The Invisible Dog Art Center
 51 Bergen Street, Brooklyn
Admission: Free and open to the public
Information: fiaf.org/ct | 212 355 6160
theinvisibledog.org | 866 811 4111
Transportation: Subway: F or G to Bergen Street, Bus: B57

###