

For Immediate Release

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The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)
presents



**CROSSING
THE LINE**

FIAF'S FALL FESTIVAL

September 12–October 3, 2009

New York, New York, June 4, 2009 – The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), New York's premiere French cultural center, announced today the program for the third annual edition of the *Crossing the Line* fall festival, presenting a new generation of transdisciplinary artists in New York City for three intensive weeks of new ideas and fresh perspectives.

Conceived as a platform to present vibrant new works by a diverse range of artists working in France and New York City, *Crossing the Line* is initiated, conceived, and produced by FIAF in partnership with leading New York cultural institutions. In 2009, this inter-disciplinary contemporary arts festival will further develop its focus on artists who are transforming cultural practices on both sides of the Atlantic. Whether by performing shopping, watching sounds, composing films, or reading movements, audiences will join in exploring, sensing, and tasting a unique collection of outstanding new works and experiences, and discovering new revelations from each of these extraordinary artists.

The third edition of *Crossing the Line* is co-curated by Lili Chopra (Artistic Director at FIAF) and Simon Dove (Director, School of Dance at Arizona State University), and runs from September 12 through October 3, 2009. A number of the programs and events will utilize FIAF's own spaces, including Florence Gould Hall, Tinker Auditorium, the FIAF Gallery, and Le Skyroom. Established partners in New York City will also host events, including Cabinet Gallery, CPR–Center for Performance Research, Dance Theater Workshop (DTW), Danspace Project, Luxe Gallery, Macy's, the New Museum, and Performance Space 122 (P.S. 122). Additional partners for *Crossing the Line* 2009 include Anthology Film Archives, the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC), Omnivore New York, and the Whitney Museum.

What to expect...

Crossing the Line 2009 begins with “Le Bal NYC”, a culinary-infused participatory dance event in Central Park, September 12

A fresh new take on some classic French traditions, the “bal populaire” and the “pique-nique” are reinvented as *Crossing the Line* is launched on the East Meadow in Central Park. Both established and emerging choreographers from France have specially created short new dances which are taught section by section to the public. As both audience and performers of the new work, participants get an insider’s look into the mechanics of contemporary choreography as well as the creative imagination of dance personalities. To sate the appetite of all these dancing feet, the Omnivore “brigade” will be creating special *Crossing the Line* Bento Boxes—a unique vision of the picnic with different elements created by innovative master chefs Inaki Aizpitarte, Alexandre Gauthier, Pascal Barbot, and Michel Bras from France, as well as New York’s David Chang and Wylie Dufresne.

Marie Maillard’s “Wall 0909” at Luxe Gallery and an installation at FIAF’s Florence Gould Hall from August 27–September 26

Marie Maillard's work combines the concepts of both video and wallpaper. One is concrete, the other is transient; one is decorative and made as background, the other often complex, and pithy. Maillard's work creates elegant and enigmatic hybrids, which not only conflates these oppositions but utilizes each to redefine the other. She uses video decoratively and formally, while wallpaper suddenly becomes quizzical. Video-wallpaper, a logism that has come to identify her particular style of expression, overlaps, morphs, isolates, and distorts images, words, and sounds—conveying the notion of the habitable image coming out of the screen and investing the architectural space. In her investigations of an aesthetic of *fonds d'écran*, Maillard's immaterial wallpapers blur the line between domestic and public space, and question the relationship between body and the occupation of space.

“Omnivore New York” hosts a day dedicated to culinary exploration, September 13 at FIAF

A unique opportunity to explore the sublime and total sensory investigation of our world through some of the most transformative chefs of our times. *Crossing the Line* is partnering with Luc Dubanchet and his Omnivore team, based in France, bringing together the leading creators from the kitchens of New York and France for a series of events that enable participants to see, talk, taste, imagine, and meditate on some of the world’s most inspiring culinary creations. Events include a screening of the documentary, *Inventing Cuisine: Michel Bras*, followed by a conversation between legendary chef Michel Bras and culinary expert Julie Andrieu. *Omnivore New York* will culminate with *Shadows and Light*, onstage cooking “duets” that will pair American and French chefs for a live comparison of techniques and the exploration of new flavors and tastes. Duets will feature: Wylie Dufresne and Inaki Aizpitarte; David Kinch and Pascal Barbot; and David Chang and Alexandre Gauthier.

Steven Cohen’s “Knock’Em Dead” at CPR—Center for Performance Research on September 16

The African Burial Ground (Lower Manhattan), Trinity Churchyard Cemetery (Wall Street), St. Paul’s (Ground Zero), and the three cemeteries of the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue, to name a few Manhattan resting places, are all located within New York’s “concrete jungle”, and bridge racial, cultural, and religious differences. Death is the final, inescapable equalizer of all people. Steven Cohen’s work aims to look at the idea of “motionlessness” and silence within the noisy and actively congested Manhattan city space, with particular attention paid to those resting in the small cemeteries that survive in the “city that never sleeps”.

As part of his ongoing GOLGOTHA project, Cohen will also show fragments of the filmed “public interventions” from this work, made in New York City during 2008 and 2009.

Visual System presents “Magical City” at the FIAF Gallery from September 16–October 17

Visual System (VS) is a collective created in 2007 whose projects explore the role of digital media in the city of the future. The FIAF Gallery will host an interactive exhibit featuring three installations created by four artists from the collective: Olivier Pasquet, Djeff Regottaz, Bastien Ribeiro, and Valère Terrier. Within the framework of creating a completely digital megalopolis, *Magical City* will present different aspects of digital contemporary art through the viewer's immersion into a network of poetic and interactive works. The works are both linked to one another and stand-alone pieces, and the city “plan” can be compared to a subway map, allowing the flow of electricity, energy, and humanity. A musical composition by Olivier Pasquet (IRCAM) will accent and complete the new digital universe.

Nacera Belaza’s “Le Cri” at Danspace Project from September 17–19

The choreographer and dancer Nacera Belaza has described her work as, “an exhortation of being, a dialogue with the invisible” (*Dance Theater Journal*, 2007). With ten creations to her credit since founding her company in 1987, Belaza succeeds in questioning the codes of dance and religion with a personal style that mixes beauty and austerity. Faithful to her way of life and view of the world, *Le Cri* is characterized by its restraint. Nevertheless, this duet, which Nacera Belaza dances together with her sister, is overflowing with sensuality. It is a musing on human life and our desire for spirituality, without losing sight of pleasure and enjoyment.

Metamkine’s live film performance in FIAF’s Florence Gould Hall on September 18

A trio founded in 1987 and based in Grenoble, *La Cellule d’Intervention Metamkine* includes one musician (Jérôme Noetinger) and two filmmakers (Christophe Auger and Xavier Quérel) whose research into the relationship between image and sound has resulted in works they refer to as live “musico-cinematic” creations. Working with a core narrative, the three artists create a series of impromptu situational vignettes accompanied by a live soundtrack of tape fragments and analog synthesizer sounds. Through the use of mirrors, multiple projectors, and ingenious on-stage editing, they produce and direct a new film live—simultaneously a performance and its document.

Julia Mandle’s “Fabrication of Blindness” at Cabinet Gallery from September 19–27

Inspired by the work of a French war-photographer, Julia Mandle has created *Fabrication of Blindness*. This installation serves as both a memorial and protest to America's use of torture in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and beyond. She has built a large dark cloud made out of black military sandbags which are used to hood prisoners. Mandle has collected letters, poems, and stories by the detainees, which have been embroidered onto the hoods, during a series of sewing circles in New York City and Washington DC.

Mandle says, “I have come to believe that it might only be when we feel the painful reality of what our country has caused – and stay with it, not turn a blind eye – that we will be inspired to truly act and change course. I believe that art can play an instigating role.”

U.S. Premiere of Bettina Atala’s “Season 1 episode 2” in FIAF’s Florence Gould Hall on September 22

Season 1 episode 2 by Bettina Atala presents a film that examines its own production process step by step, as it is being created. The work questions the role of TV, film, Big Brother and the boundaries of reality and fiction—while offering a delightful critique of social norms and structures. Artfully combining film and performance, Atala also performs with the French group *Grand Magasin* on an ongoing basis.

U.S. Premiere of Raimund Hoghe's "Boléro Variations" at Dance Theater Workshop from September 23–25 and a special performance of "L'Après-midi" at Danspace Project on September 26

Both performer and choreographer, Raimund Hoghe's work is nothing less than a political gesture that questions our conceptions about difference and our expectations about the dancing body. Hoghe's presence on the stage both energizes and destabilizes audiences, opening a pathway toward an inclusive view of humanity. *Boléro Variations*, a dance piece created in 2007 in Paris, features the music of Ravel's *Boléro* as well as fado, folksongs and the TV sound broadcast from Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's ice-dancing performance at the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo. *L'Après-midi* is based on Vaslav Nijinski's legendary interpretation in 1912 of a Stéphane Mallarmé poem, *L'Après-midi d'un faune*. Revisiting this piece nearly a century later, Hoghe spotlights the talent of the young dancer Emmanuel Eggermont in a radiant solo performance.

World Premiere of "Alice Guy Blaché Film Score Project" featuring composers Missy Mazzoli, Tamar Muskal, Tender Forever, and Du Yun on September 29

In collaboration with Whitney Live, FIAF presents four young composers in dialogue with the pioneering filmmaker Alice Guy Blaché (1873-1968) as part of the Whitney Museum of American Art's retrospective of her career (November 6, 2009–January 24, 2010). Missy Mazzoli, Tamar Muskal, Tender Forever, and Du Yun find common ground with the first-ever female filmmaker and shed a contemporary light on Guy Blaché's legacy through live performances matched to her short films. These four composers each possess an extraordinary vision and a vibrant record of original work, each one pushing the boundaries of contemporary composition in a transformative and singular way.

World Premiere of Maria Hassabi's "Solo Show" at Performance Space 122 from September 29–October 3

SOLO SHOW is a new diptych work by Maria Hassabi composed of two evening-long solos. The first of this jointly commissioned work, entitled "come in my house i want to hurt you!" will premiere at P.S. 122 as part of *Crossing the Line 2009* while the second will premiere one month later as part of PERFORMA 09. Both works of SOLO SHOW are performance and installation—transforming space and image while exploring different states of singularity. An abstract narrative unfolds through the passage of time, out of the body's physicality and its relationship to a constructed limited space. Recognizable images in play are transcended and a new unfamiliar space is created.

Matsune & Subal Production present "store" at Luxe Gallery from September 30–October 3

store is a shop. Art is a business. In *store* you can buy movements, actions, and behaviors. There are more than 60 performance products to choose from! Through the process, Matsune & Subal create a product which the audience/customer can take away or get delivered in the mail. *store* questions the consumption of art and our consumption of the consumption culture. It lets the audience/customer/viewer analyze his/her own role as a consumer of performance and his/her own performance of a purchase.

Trajal Harrell's "Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (S)" at the New Museum, co-presented by Danspace Project, from October 1–2

Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church is the collective and shared title of five dances in five sizes: Extra Small (XS), Small (S), Medium (M), Large (L), and Extra Large (XL), choreographed by Trajal Harrell. "What would have happened in 1963 if someone from the voguing ball scene in Harlem had come downtown to perform alongside the early postmoderns at Judson Church?" Rather than illustrating a historical fiction, Harrell's new work transplants this proposition into a contemporary context and debate about the seduction of the audience and the naiveté of the performer and/or vice-versa. The (S) version, co-presented by



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the New Museum and Danspace Project in association with *Crossing the Line* 2009, will be a solo performance by Harrell with work by visual artist Franklin Evans.

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Crossing the Line 2009: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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Crossing the Line: FIAF Fall Festival 2009

<u>DATE AND TIME</u>	<u>ARTIST AND WORK</u>	<u>VENUE AND TICKET INFORMATION</u>	<u>TAGS</u>
Thursday–Saturday, August 27–September 26	<i>Wall 0909</i> Marie Maillard	Luxe Gallery and FIAF, Florence Gould Hall <i>Free</i>	ART, DESIGN, VIDEO
Saturday, September 12 from 2–6pm	<i>Le Bal NYC</i> with choreographers and <i>Omnivore New York</i>	Central Park <i>Free</i>	ART, DANCE, FOOD, KIDS, CITY
Sunday, September 13 at 1:30pm	<i>Inventing Cuisine: Michel Bras</i> film by Paul Lacoste	FIAF, Tinker Auditorium \$10 Non-Members; \$7 Students with ID; <i>Free to FIAF Members</i> (\$30 Day Pass for all 3 events on 09/13)	ART, FILM, FOOD
Sunday, September 13 at 3pm	<i>Michel Bras talks to Julie Andrieu</i>	FIAF, Le Skyroom \$20 Non-Members; \$15 FIAF Members (\$30 Day Pass for all 3 events on 09/13)	ART, FOOD, PEOPLE
Sunday, September 13 at 5pm	<i>Shadows and Light</i> with <i>Omnivore New York</i>	FIAF, Florence Gould Hall \$20 Non-Members; \$15 FIAF Members (\$30 Day Pass for all 3 events on 09/13)	ART, FOOD, THEATER
Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30pm	<i>Knock'Em Dead</i> Steven Cohen	Center for Performance Research <i>Free</i>	DANCE, VIDEO, PERFORMANCE
Tuesday–Saturday, September 16–October 17	<i>Magical City</i> Visual System	FIAF Gallery <i>Free</i>	ART, VIDEO, CITY

Thursday–Saturday, September 17–19 at 8pm	<i>Le Cri</i> Nacera Belaza	Danspace Project \$18; \$12 FIAF and Danspace Project Members	DANCE
Friday, September 18 at 8pm	La Cellule d'Intervention Metamkine	FIAF, Florence Gould Hall \$20 Non-Members; \$15 FIAF Members	FILM, MUSIC, PERFORMANCE
Saturday–Sunday, September 19–27	<i>Fabrication of Blindness</i> Julia Mandle	Cabinet Gallery <i>Free</i>	ART, PERFORMANCE
Tuesday, September 22 at 8pm	<i>Season 1 episode 2</i> Bettina Atala	FIAF, Florence Gould Hall \$20 Non-Members; \$15 FIAF Members	DANCE, FILM, PERFORMANCE
Wednesday–Friday, September 23-25 at 7:30pm	<i>Boléro Variations</i> Raimund Hoghe	Dance Theater Workshop \$15; \$12 FIAF and DTW Members	DANCE, MUSIC
Saturday, September 26 at 4pm	<i>L'Après-midi</i> Raimund Hoghe	Danspace Project \$18; \$12 FIAF and Danspace Project Members	DANCE, MUSIC
Tuesday, September 29 at 8pm	<i>Alice Guy-Blaché Film Score Project</i> with Missy Mazzoli, Tamar Muskal, Tender Forever & Du Yun	FIAF, Florence Gould Hall \$20 Non-Members; \$15 FIAF Members	FILM, MUSIC, MUSEUM
Tuesday–Saturday, September 29–October 3 at 7:30pm	<i>Solo Show</i> Maria Hassabi	Performance Space 122 \$20; \$30 for both works	ART, DANCE, PERFORMANCE
Wednesday–Saturday, September 30–October 3 at	<i>store</i> by Matsune & Subal Production	Luxe Gallery <i>Free</i>	ART, DANCE, KIDS, CITY, SHOPPING, THEATER
Thursday-Friday, October 1-2 at 7pm	<i>Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church(S)</i> Trajal Harell	New Museum \$18; \$15 FIAF, New Museum, and Danspace Project Members	ART, DANCE, MUSEUM, PERFORMANCE

VENUE INFORMATION

FRENCH INSTITUTE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE (FIAF)

Florence Gould Hall – 55 East 59th Street (between Park and Madison avenues)

For tickets call 212.355.6160 or go to www.fiaf.org

Tinker Auditorium – 55 East 59th Street (between Park and Madison avenues)

For tickets call 212.355.6160 or go to www.fiaf.org

Le Skyroom – 22 East 60th Street; 8th floor (between Park and Madison avenues)

For tickets call 212.355.6160 or go to www.fiaf.org

FIAF Gallery – 22 East 60th Street; ground floor (between Park and Madison avenues)

For information call 646.388.6667 or go to www.fiaf.org

Central Park - East Meadow

Enter on Fifth Avenue and 99th Street

Danspace Project

St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, 131 East 10th Street
For tickets call 866.811.4111 or go to www.danspaceproject.org



Dance Theater Workshop
219 West 19th Street (between Seventh & Eighth Avenues)
For tickets call 212.924.0077 or go to www.dancetheaterworkshop.org

Performance Space 122
150 First Avenue (on the corner of East 9th Street)
For tickets call 212.352.3101 or go to www.ps122.org

CPR—Center for Performance Research
361 Manhattan Avenue (between Jackson and Withers streets), Greenbelt - Unit 1; Williamsburg, Brooklyn
For information go to www.cprnyc.org and for reservations email info@cprnyc.org

Cabinet Gallery
300 Nevins Street, Brooklyn
For information go to www.cabinetmagazine.org or call 718.222.8434

Luxe Gallery
53 Stanton Street (between Forsyth & Eldridge Streets)
For information call 212.582.4425 or go to www.Luxegallery.net

New Museum
235 Bowery (at Prince Street between Stanton and Rivington Streets)
For information call 212.219.1222 or go to www.newmuseum.org

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About FIAF

FIAF, a not-for-profit organization created in 1898 by American Francophiles, is one of the largest and most respected centers of French-American activities in the United States, widely known as the home of New York’s foremost French language school, the leading all-French library in the country, and New York’s only performing arts center dedicated to French and Francophone culture. FIAF is dedicated to encouraging interaction and better understanding between French-speaking and American communities by creating programs in the arts and education that promote and enhance knowledge of French and Francophone culture.

As a cultural center, FIAF makes an important contribution to the broad spectrum of arts events that nourish and enrich New York City’s diverse audiences. With programming that focuses on the achievements of both France and French-speaking communities around the world, FIAF serves those who look to it for leadership, acumen, and guidance in the exploration and presentation of the arts of Francophone cultures. FIAF's year-round arts programming features a full season of film screenings, literary events, live performances of music, theater, and dance, as well as series and workshops developed for students and children.