

# Galerie Mot & Van den Boogaard

rue Antoine Dansaertstraat 46

B-1000 Brussel/Bruxelles

tel : 02-514 10 10

fax : 02-514 14 46

e-mail: mot.vdboogaard@skynet.be

donderdag - vrijdag - zaterdag 12.00 tot 18.30 uur

jeudi - vendredi - samedi 12.00 à 18.30 heures

en op afspraak / et sur rendez-vous

Newsletter 12

April - May 1998

Newsletter Galerie Mot & Van den Boogaard  
Verschijnt tweemaandelijks uitgezonderd juli-augustus.  
Nr. 12, apr.-mei. 98. Afgiftekantoor: Brussel 1  
V.U.: Jan Mot, Antoine Dansaertstraat 46, 1000 Brussel

België-Belgique  
P.B.  
1000 Brussel 1  
1/1501

Home Cinema London  
Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster 1998







# **Empire**

## **Douglas Gordon**

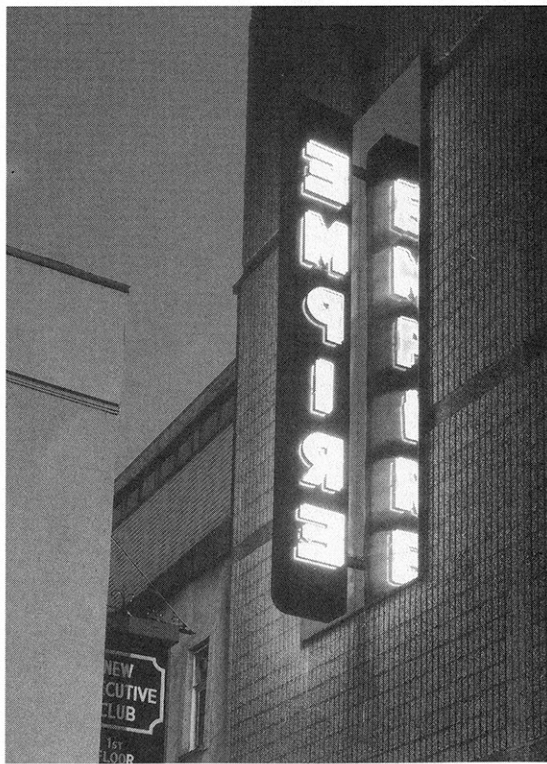
**by Andrew Cross**

Glasgow's Mitre Bar is located down a narrow alleyway off Argyle Street - a busy shopping area of the city. Although being there for many years, the Mitre Bar has recently become a drinking hole for many of Glasgow's fashionable young artists and designers as well as an escape from the bustle of weekend shoppers. The bar itself is quite small but yet comfortable. On a wet Sunday afternoon a small group of men can be found settled around the counter discussing the weekend sporting results. A football match is playing live on the TV but little attention is being paid by the men as the game is not only boring but, an English one. Outside, rain is falling.

Glasgow is Douglas Gordon's home town although I understand he is in Berlin at the moment. In fact, Douglas spends most of his time away from Glasgow but his name is often spoken, especially by a new young generation of aspirant artists. Earlier this year, a permanent publicly sited work by Douglas was unveiled in Glasgow's Merchant City district; which is why I am here.

I have no appointments to keep this particular afternoon and have little desire to leave the comfort of my seat by the window through which little can be seen except the brick wall opposite and the occasional wet passer by. Beyond the window, however, one is very conscious of a green glow of neon light emanating from down the alley. This light keeps time to the slow pace of the afternoon with a persistent but regular flicker.

When I visit Glasgow I always think of Douglas, and when I think of Douglas I can't help but think of films. Or, is it the other way round? I am not sure, but isn't that the point: the flip between the 'real' and the imagined, the focus on one in the absence of the other? Sitting alone in the Mitre Bar I feel slightly detached from my surroundings, a bit like being at the set for a slow moving film. It is one of the pleasures of visiting an unfamiliar place and Glasgow is particularly good for this. The city is somehow cast in a grainy monochrome and, unlike the rest of Britain and perhaps Europe, it projects images which at the same time are both familiar yet feel from a different place or time. If I am in a film it is not Technicolor of contemporary New York or California. It is the more anonymous location for a 'Film Noir'. Somewhere like Kansas or Chicago.



The flickering green light belongs to a neon sign recently installed in the alleyway. Not that one would necessarily notice it was new as it is in keeping with many of Glasgow's nostalgic Art-Decoesque fixtures. This particular sign is Douglas's commission although to recognise the sign as a work of 'public' art is not the intention. The work's presence is more surreptitious than purposeful; happily playing the backdrop to some late night revlry. However, if one looks closely there are some clues. The sign reads vertically E.M.P.I.R.E. - an American Hotel sign - but the letters are reversed. To correct them the sign is reflected in a mirror. It is that flip again: the flip of language, the flip of reality, the flip in Hitchcock's film technique - for it is in 'Vertigo' that the real (or, non real) Empire Hotel makes an appearance.

Six years ago I would have been drinking in the Mitre Bar with Douglas himself. This time I have to be content with my own thoughts and a greenish glow. Not that I mind too much. The beauty of Douglas's art is its ambivalence towards a determinable time or place. A constant to-ing and fro-ing between a myth and reality, he infiltrates the space between our own lives and the lives lived out in movies. Six years ago Douglas was not known so well in Glasgow, or beyond. Now he is ever present in the city.

Andrew Cross

*'Empire' by Douglas Gordon was commissioned by Visual Art Projects, Glasgow for the Merchant City Civic Society.*

*Photograph by Simon Starling*

## Agenda

**Pierre Bismuth:** Tussenin/In-between, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, 29/3-10/5

**Rineke Dijkstra:** Museum Folkwang, Essen, 29/3-24/5 (solo); Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain, Rochechouart, 28/3-14/6

**Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster:** 88:88, Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, 15/2-19/4/98 (solo); Exterminating Angel, Galerie Ghislaine Hussenot, Paris, 7/3-2/5; Cities on the Move, CAPCMusée, Bordeaux, 4/6-30/8

**Joachim Koester:** Come closer, Liechtensteinische Staatliche Kunstsammlung, Vaduz, 19/2-19/4; Nuit blanche, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 6/2-10/5; Exterminating Angel, Galerie Ghislaine Hussenot, Paris, 7/3-2/5; Kunstmuseum, Milwaukee, 8/5-28/6 (solo)

**Renée Kool:** Very Short Spaces of Time, Biennale de l'Image, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 12/5-12/7

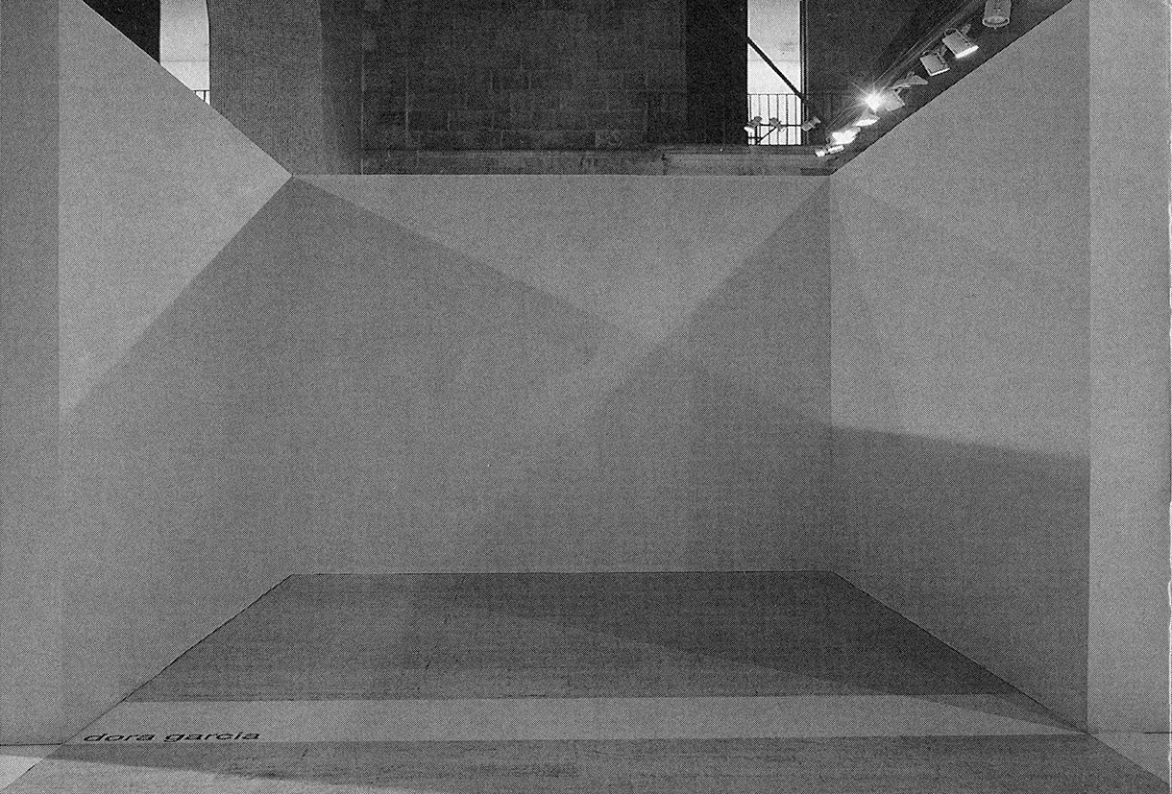
**Wouter van Riessen:** Galerie Farber-Jurka, Amsterdam, 4-29/4, (solo) met/avec concert 19/4, 16u/h, (reserv.: +31 20 627 63 43)

**Slipstream,** met/avec Pierre Bismuth, Manon de Boer, Dora Garcia e.a., meerdere locaties in/plu-sieurs endroits à Nijmegen, 23/5-21/6, info: +31 24 360 1746

De galerie neemt deel aan / La galerie participe à:  
**Art Brussels,** Heizel/Heysel, 24-28/4 en/et  
**Liste 98,** Basel/Bâle, 10-14/6

*Pierre Bismuth, Ecoutons "L'Histoire du Soldat" d'Igor Stravinsky, 1998, Tussenin/In-Between, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle. Foto/Photo: Benn Deceuninck*





# **Dora Garcia / Box**

**16/4 - 23/5**

**vernissage 15/4**

**18 - 21 u/h**

Met dank aan / Remerciements à: Duvel - Brouwerij/Brasserie Moortgat, Restaurant Bonsoir Clara, Son & Lumière, Stephan Vanfleteren (foto/photo)