

GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER / FALL 2009

New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, in partnership with the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, is pleased to announce the opening of *Longing for Certain Things*, the inaugural exhibition for our 2009-2010 season. Curated by Ann Chwatsky, with curatorial assistance by Frankie Crescioni-Santoni and the Gallery Space at Wagner Committee, *Longing for Certain Things* features an enigmatic collection of prints by digital media artist **Kathleen Graves**.

Combining iconic imagery from the High Middle Ages with visual elements from modern technology and the human interface, this eight-print series draws intriguing parallels between the philosophical and technological breakthroughs that gave rise to the Renaissance and the growth of technological sciences in the 20th and 21st centuries. Graves' images reveal a fascination with technology as a potential engine for evolution and enhancement as well as with the inevitable implications of such innovations on human identity and interpersonal relations. With this digital study, the artist queries, "Will technology evolve humans and save us? Will we be able to flourish in the same manner that, for instance, the printing press helped to propel us out of the Dark Ages?" To tackle these questions, she researches medieval concepts and images and places them within a new sociological context by relating them to the cutting-edge engineering of humans into Cyborgs, Artificial Intelligence, and Intelligent Accessories.

Each piece in *Longing for Certain Things* addresses the artist's multiple streams of concern and delight. *The Cult of the Virgin*, for example—where women put on Romeo's boots and "woo" God—seeks to establish a philosophical connection between medieval ideals of purity and virginity and today's desire to perfect the body and mind through various technologies. Following a similar feminist line of query, *so Smart, so Domineering* illustrates and challenges the tiresome paradigm of women as pigeonholed in nature. (Inspired by Supreme Court nominee Sonya Sotomayor's confirmation hearings, the two women depicted in the image personify the heroic qualities that influenced the title.) The fantastical *IMOIMI_1st Edition—I'm o, I'm 1* depicts an A.I. human body, a medieval illuminated book, and a "fraught road to the future," in an intriguing figurative interplay of past, present, and future technologies.

The works comprising *Longing for Certain Things* reveal a prescriptive and imaginary notion of a society that has become increasingly reliant on technological solutions. Not coincidentally, all the prints in the collection resort to vast areas of negative space, a creative choice that not only aims at punctuating imagery and creating compositional tension, but one that also serves to set a powerful influx of emblems and symbols. The resulting feeling of free-flowing chaos aptly hints at the anxiety and uncertainty inspired by the artist's vision of a technology-dependent future.

Kathleen Graves earned an MA in Photography as part of a collaborative program between New York University and the International Center for Photography (ICP). Her print and video work has been exhibited at numerous local and international venues, including the Takasago Gallery and the ICP in New York City, the Frida Arte Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea in Bari, Italy, and the VII International Digital Print Exhibition and Colloquium in Havana, Cuba. She is also featured in various permanent collections, such as the Kunsthalle Bremen, in Bremen, Germany, the Neuberger Museum of Art, in NY, as well as video libraries in Venice and Brescia, Italy. A digital photographer and large format printer, Graves comes from a painting and dance background and was a member of DigiGirls, a former collective of artists and curators that supported a progressive dialogue in the digital arts. She currently teaches at NYU Steinhardt, where she concentrates on digital project courses and is Coordinator of the Digital Print Studio at the Barney Building. Examples of Kathleen Graves' artwork can be seen at <http://www.gravus.net>.

Longing for Certain Things runs from October 15 through November 14, 2009. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 15, from 5:30-7:00pm. The Gallery Space at Wagner is located on the 2nd floor of the Puck Building, at 295 Lafayette Street and corner of Houston Street (B, D, F, V trains to Broadway-Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker). Gallery viewing hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30am-8:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-7:00pm, and Saturdays 9:00am-5:30pm. For more information, please contact Frankie Crescioni-Santoni at 212.998.7400.

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ABOVE: *IMOIMI_1st Edition–l'm o l'm 1* (40 x 30 in), archival digital print. OVER: *Remix* (detail) (48 x 32 in), archival digital print.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & TO PURCHASE PRINTS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN GRAVES AT
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