

# Elizabeth Dee

545 West 20th Street New York NY 10011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Adrian Piper *Everything*

March 1 – April 19, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 1, 6-8 pm

Elizabeth Dee Gallery is proud to present *Everything*, a solo exhibition of work by Adrian Piper and the debut gallery presentation of the artist's most recent, ongoing series *Everything*, which she began in 2003.

Since the late 1960s, Adrian Piper has forged a unique artistic practice that infused classical Minimal sculptural form with explicit political content and introduced issues of race, gender and identity politics into the vocabulary of Conceptual art. She has deployed permutation and seriation—which at the time that Piper began using them were considered non-traditional artistic media—as strategies for investigating the infinite variability of perceptual form and content. In recent years, her artwork has begun to intersect more explicitly with her philosophical work, resulting in a reconsideration of space, time, and infinity in defining the limits and potential permutability of the self as situated on a pre-established grid defined by social and political variables of race, sex, class conflict, and social relations.

Featuring two new video animations, a news media video, indexical text and image installations, sculptural editions, and appropriated and re-worked photographs, this exhibition pivots around a single phrase

### **Everything will be taken away**

as the constant in a system of permutations that comprises the *Everything* series. Encountered in an excavated wall, etched on the surface of a mirror, emblazoned across photographs from the Hurricane Katrina disaster, or obscuring the face of a loved one in a photograph, the phrase functions as a mantra that reveals itself to have broad philosophical meaning and specific concrete application to the techniques of fading, scrubbing, erasing and removing used in these works. Wallpapered images of assassinated political leaders and facsimiled pages from the Bill of Rights bracket a wall of text reporting the horrifying and racially charged kidnapping, torture, and sexual assault of Megan Williams in rural West Virginia last year. In the context of these figures and events, the phrase holds political as well as personal implications that render its emotional and physical connotations even more devastating. Yet there is another meaning to be gleaned from these words; the possibility perhaps, as Piper explains, for “detachment from all the relationships, communities, values, and practices that make anomaly and ostracism possible.”

This is Adrian Piper's first solo exhibition with Elizabeth Dee Gallery and the first solo exhibition of her work in New York since her 1999-2000 retrospective at the New Museum. She has shown extensively for the past four decades, in solo and group contexts, and has been the subject of numerous monographic exhibitions across the United States and internationally. www.elizabethdeegallery.com t +1 212 924 7545 f +1 212 924 7671

In addition to the gallery presentation, a satellite exhibition of Piper's historical works from the 1970s-1990s will be presented by Elizabeth Dee Gallery at The Armory Show, March 27-30, Pier 94, New York City. A complete set of the ads printed in the Village Voice in 1973-74 from Piper's *The Mythic Being* series will be shown as well as individual pieces from the *Decide Who You Are* series and other works.

Please contact the gallery at +1 212 924 7545 for more information.