

For Immediate Release:

Pierre Bismuth  
*Where is Rocky II? Trailer-Teaser*  
29 March – 26 April 2015  
83 Grand Street

Team (gallery, inc.) is pleased to announce a solo show by Brussels-based, French artist Pierre Bismuth. Entitled *Where is Rocky II? Trailer-Teaser*, the exhibition will run from 29 March through 26 April 2015. Team is located at 83 Grand Street, between Wooster and Greene. Concurrently, our 47 Wooster Street space will host a program of events by Alex Bag, Marc Hundley and Santiago Sierra.

For this exhibition, Bismuth will present two new video works, *Where is Rocky II? Trailer* and *Where is Rocky II, Teaser* (featuring artist Lawrence Weiner). The premise of both works is Bismuth's suspicion that in the 1970s, artist Ed Ruscha may have fabricated and hidden a completely unknown sculpture titled *Rocky II* in the vast and desolate landscape of the Californian desert. This object, an artificial boulder hidden amongst real ones, has remained undetected for nearly forty years. Though Ruscha has recently confirmed the existence of the sculpture, he has refused to supply any further information. The inconclusive circuit of the object's whereabouts and the shadowy narrative that accompanies it serve as the jumping off point for *Where is Rocky II? Trailer-Teaser*.

Not unlike the familiar slogan "Coming Soon," film trailers are simple and standard audio-visual conventions employed by the entertainment industry to announce forthcoming films. Continuing the artist's long-term interest in exploring the detritus of cultural production as a formal strategy, *Where is Rocky II? Trailer* not only examines the ways in which audience anticipation and recognition inform our experiences of viewership, but likewise suggests that these dramatically compressed narratives are often more compelling than the complete films they purport to represent.

Narrated by Lawrence Weiner and written by Bismuth and Aaron Schuster, *Where is Rocky II? Teaser* examines the dark historical chronology of Joshua Tree (the site where the Ruscha work is supposedly hidden) from 1870 to 1976. Detailing a series of legendary disappearances, deaths, fakes, supernatural encounters and cinematic illusions, *Teaser* situates Ruscha's object firmly in the mythology of the landscape. Weiner's participation serves a bifold purpose – the sonorous familiarity of his voice is not only a reference to the traditional cinematic teasers that well known Hollywood figures lend their voices to, but it likewise creates an improbable bridge between conceptual art and the entertainment industry.

Though both videos are discrete artworks, they likewise operate as fully functional examples of the tropes that they mimic. Marking the artist's return to Hollywood ten years after winning an Academy Award, Bismuth is currently completing his debut feature-length film, a quasi-documentary chronicling the artist's hunt for Ruscha's sculpture. Echoing the gesture established by the concealment of a fake boulder among a nearly impenetrable landscape of identical real ones, *Where Is Rocky II?* examines the slippery relationship between the real and the super-real, between what something purports itself to be and what it actually is.

Pierre Bismuth (b. 1963) has been exhibiting his work internationally for over twenty years. Prominent monographic exhibitions have been held at the Kunsthalle in Basel, Nice's Villa Arson, Rotterdam's Witte de With, MAMCO in Geneva, and most recently the Kunsthalle in Vienna. His work was included in the 2001 Venice Biennale, in Manifesta 4 and in the 11th Biennale de Lyon, 2011. In 2002, Bismuth won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, alongside Michel Gondry and Charlie Kaufman, for the film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm and Sunday, Noon to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs, please call 212 279 9219.

Pierre Bismuth

*Where is Rocky II? Trailer-Teaser*

29 March – 26 April, 2015

clockwise from left:



*Where is Rocky II? Teaser (featuring special guest, Lawrence Weiner)*  
2015  
Digital video, sound  
2 minutes 17 seconds, looped  
edition of 8, 2 APs



*Where is Rocky II? Trailer*  
2014  
Digital video, sound  
3 minutes 41 seconds, looped  
edition of 8, 2 APs