



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE



ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

APRIL 21–AUGUST 7, 2011

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 6–8PM
EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH: THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 5PM,
ICA MEMBERS ONLY
WITH THE ARTISTS AND ICA ASSISTANT CURATOR KATE KRACZON



PHILADELPHIA, PA

One is the loneliest number presents emerging artist duos based in Philadelphia and elsewhere that work in a variety of media—from graphic design to video to sculpture—highlighting a collective mode that has historical precedents but is also increasingly present in contemporary practice. This spectrum of approaches to art making extends beyond materials and into the collaborative methods artists have developed in their ongoing partnerships. This exhibition features the five collaboratives Lucas Ajemian and Julien Bismuth; Davis, Cherubini; Nadia Hironaka and Matthew Suib; Nick Mauss and Ken Okiishi; and Megawords. *One is the loneliest number* is on view in ICA's second floor-gallery, mezzanine, and adjacent staff kitchen.



(top to bottom): Megawords, *Megawords Newsstand*, 2010. Courtesy of Megawords. (Bottom): Lucas Ajemian and Julien Bismuth, *Set Pieces*, 2008, digital video (color, sound) and powder coated steel. Courtesy of the artists and INVISIBLE-EXPORTS, New York. Davis, Cherubini, *John*, 2010, stoneware, archival digital inkjet print, and MDF, 61 x 9 x 12 inches. Courtesy of Samsøn, Boston, MA.

As friends (Ajemian and Bismuth; Davis, Cherubini; Megawords) or couples (Hironaka and Suib; Mauss and Okiishi), each artist pair has learned to work together over the years in an ever-evolving practice. Sometimes this process has been an organic extension of a relationship already established, a conversation that began to manifest itself in objects or speculative projects. Other pairs found the process of working together to be a negotiation, one that came to require less effort or compromise over time, but that continues to develop with each new project or piece.

Ken Okiishi (and Google) translate poet Arthur Rimbaud and Nick Mauss illustrates directly onto the pages of the new manuscript. Lucas Ajemian and Julien Bismuth engage Lettrism, a French avant-garde movement from the 1940s, through a range of mediums. Nicole Cherubini and Taylor Davis push a playful obsession with materials through their collaboration as Davis, Cherubini. Working seamlessly, Nadia Hironaka and Matthew Suib create gallery-scale video projections. Philadelphia-based Megawords (Anthony Smyrski and Dan Murphy) occupy the ICA mezzanine and the adjacent staff kitchen during the run of *One is the loneliest number* and have programmed a series of collaboration-themed events.

CONTACT

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Regardless of the origins of the collaborations featured in the exhibition, or the media they employ, each artist in *One is the loneliest number* has sought partnership to expand outside their solo practices, to pursue mediums or ideas that they wouldn't otherwise, and to utilize skills or knowledge they may not individually possess. As Taylor Davis says of her work with Nicole Cherubini, "You don't need to collaborate unless you need to get something

*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-3289
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG

HOURS

Wednesday 11am-8pm
Thursday + Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday + Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission is FREE every day.

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For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania believes in the power of art and artists to inform and inspire. The ICA is free for all to engage and connect with the art of our time.

or can give something.” *One is the loneliest number* surveys the two-person collaboration as it is today, in an environment where artists increasingly set their own parameters for what practice can mean. As the art market continues to prioritize solo makers of singular objects, collaboration—whether as pairs, trios, or larger groups—continues to offer an alternative to how art making and authorship is defined.

RELATED PROGRAMS:

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH (ICA MEMBERS ONLY)

Thursday, April 21, 5pm—with the artists and exhibition curator Kate Kraczon

MEGAWORDS EVENTS

TAKE TWO: A COLLECTION OF COLLABORATIVELY MADE FILMS

WHENEVER WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 8PM

Take in a screening of films by Megawords’ international network of filmmakers, featuring work by the Maysles Brothers, Adams & Itso, Matthias Wermke and Mischa Leinkauf, Elissa Bogos, and others, on ICA’s terrace.

AYURVEDA WORKSHOP WITH BALARAMA CHANDRA DAS

WHENEVER WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 6:30PM

Receive instruction in the holistic practice of body, mind, and spirit known as “Ayurveda” —Sanskrit for “the science of life”— from frequent Megawords collaborator Balarama Chandra Das.

PECHAKUCHA(ISH) NIGHT: DUOS

WHENEVER WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 6:30PM

Absorb the work of artists from *One is the loneliest number* and other creative duos in a lecture format loosely based on PechaKucha, the Japanese-originated “20 slides in 20 seconds” method of quickly sharing visual information. Followed by live music and drinks on the ICA terrace.

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