

documentary-style shots of Fast, as interviewer, and the soldier as raconteur. In a February 2008 profile of the artist, *Artforum* wrote about the work, “what is really unsettling is the fact that the images inhabit a liminal space between stasis and animation... With growing discomfiture, the viewer of *The Casting* is forced to confront the question of not only what these pictures show but, more pressingly, of what these pictures are. Whatever narratives its imagery suggest, in other words, *The Casting* forces one into an ontological quandary.”

“In the past,” says Fast, “I’ve searched for documentary subjects with problematic credentials: individuals with firsthand experience of inauthentic or staged events. Their stories were then complicated through various editing and installation strategies. Recently, I’ve tried to strip down the process, to create beautiful things that speak about the human condition more simply.”

Omer Fast will also present an evening of screenings on October 23 at 6pm as part of SAIC’s series Conversations at the Edge, at the Gene Siskel Film Center. Showing will be a single channel version of *The Casting*; *Looking Pretty for God (After GW)*; *Take a Deep Breath* (2008); and excerpts from earlier works.

Omer Fast

October 25, 2008–January 3, 2009

Rymer Gallery, 280 S. Columbus Drive

Reception: October 24, 4:30–7pm

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday 11am–6pm

Free admission

Conversations at the Edge screening

October 23, 6pm

Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street

Admission \$9 general public, \$7 students, \$5 members

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)

Educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s reputation as one of the most distinguished training grounds in these disciplines is reflected in the 2008 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools” published by *U.S. News & World Report*, which ranked its Master of Fine Arts program as the 3rd best graduate art program in the nation. In a survey conducted by the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University, SAIC was named the “most influential art school” by art critics at general interest news publications from across the United States. As one of the two bodies that make up the Art Institute of Chicago, SAIC’s unparalleled transdisciplinary approach to art and design education is seen in the twenty-seven areas of study it offers through a range of graduate, undergraduate, and post-baccalaureate programs, and its world-class status is attested to in the over forty countries represented in its 2,900 degree-seeking students. Notable alumni of the School include Paul Chan, Richard Hunt, Halston, Joan Mitchell, Elizabeth Murray, LeRoy Neiman, Georgia O’Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, David Sedaris, Robert Storr, and Rirkrit Tiravanija.

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