

Cabinet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamie Davidovich: “The Live! Show”

January 22, 2010 – February 13, 2010

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12–6 pm (and by appointment)

Opening reception: Thursday, January 21, 7–9 pm



Cabinet is pleased to present “The Live! Show,” an exhibition by New York-based artist Jaime Davidovich. Pitched as a television variety show of the avant-garde—hosted by real and invented personalities and jam-packed with interviews, vox pops, home-shopping segments, art performances, live call-ins, art lessons, and more—*The Live! Show* began its five-year run on Manhattan cable station Channel J on 21 December 1979.

Though a manic collage of playful ideas, *The Live! Show* also operated as a polemical artwork for its creator, Jaime Davidovich. Davidovich had a long-standing interest in television as a platform for artistic production and intervention; *The Live! Show* allowed him to explore this interest while engaging directly with the conditions of television culture itself. Davidovich—the show's host, editorialist, and chief ideologue—usually assumed the role of his favored character, “Dr. Videovich,” inviting artists such as Laurie Anderson, Les Levine, and Robert Longo onto the show to perform and make work. He also took advantage of his airtime to do a little selling, inaugurating a segment called “The Video Shop,” in which he hawked “Winky Dinky” sets, *Dukes of Hazzard* bed trays, and other objects he had made especially for sale on the show.

For this exhibition, episodes and excerpts from *The Live! Show* will be shown alongside archival material, printed matter, and original photographs documenting the show's run between 1979 and 1984.

About Jaime Davidovich

Born in Argentina, Jaime Davidovich has been living in New York since 1964. One of the first visual artists to work with video, he began to use the medium for his 1972 installation at the Akron Art Institute. In 1976, he and a group of other artists created Cable SoHo, an organization dedicated to producing and showing new artistic works on cable television. In 1977, he became president of the organization (changing its name to Artist Television Network), and started creating his own programs for cable. Inspired by Cabaret Voltaire and the pioneering work of Ernie Kovacs, in 1979 he started “The Live! Show,” which was shown weekly on Manhattan Cable Television (currently Time Warner Cable) until 1984. Currently working on a “delete” project addressing the over-saturation of information in the globalized art world, Davidovich's work is included in the permanent collections of numerous museums worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), Museo Reina Sofia (Madrid), and the Museo de Arte Moderno (Buenos Aires). In 2010, a major retrospective of Davidovich's work is planned at Artium in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

About Cabinet

Featuring exhibitions of both contemporary art and historical materials, as well as an eclectic schedule of talks, screenings, and events, Cabinet's space was inaugurated in the fall of 2008 to extend the award-winning magazine's engagement with art and culture into the public realm. Located at 300 Nevins Street (between Sackett and Union) in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn, Cabinet's space is open Tuesday to Saturday 12–6 pm and by appointment, and is fully wheelchair-accessible.

For further information, contact Sina Najafi at 718 222-8434 or via email at press@cabinetmagazine.org.