

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Roberta Smith, "Art in Review," *The New York Times*, December 12, 2008

## The New York Times

### Art in Review

By ROBERTA SMITH  
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RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA

JG Reads

Gavin Brown's Enterprise

620 Greenwich Street, at Leroy Street, West Village

Through Dec. 20

In the 1990s Rirkrit Tiravanija became known for turning normal art gallery life on its head: cooking and serving Thai food to visitors; switching offices with exhibition spaces; building a full-scale model of his apartment and leaving it open 24/7 for two months. These works redefined art as personal and social interaction and often seemed to be hard acts for Mr. Tiravanija to follow.

But film may be a salvation. To the current "Theanyspacewhatever" exhibition at the Guggenheim, Mr. Tiravanija has contributed a quirky documentary in which he interviews or simply hangs out with other artists. Jumping among its subjects with the speed of conversation, or friendship, it is shown on monitors in a carpeted, pillowed space where you too can hang out.

Mr. Tiravanija's latest exhibition at the gallery of Gavin Brown, his longtime enabler, puts film to more sculptural use. In a full-size model of the front end of the poet John Giorno's Bowery loft, Mr. Tiravanija is projecting 10 reels of 16-millimeter black-and-white film of Mr. Giorno reciting his poems. It is a retrospective.

Dressed casually in white jeans and shirt, the lean, still handsome Mr. Giorno, 72, is a New York poet out of central casting. His delivery is intensely rhythmic; his works are intensely personal and full of hammering repetitions. Sometimes Mr. Giorno puts on a record of him performing with his eponymous band, walks off camera while it plays and then returns to recite the same poem a cappella. Often the personal is also historical, as with an extended narrative about spending the day of President John F. Kennedy's assassination watching television and weeping with Andy Warhol.

Whether you stay for five minutes or five hours, this piece accomplishes a marvelous conflation of times and spaces and art and life. The carpeted room contains only a long, comfortable bench by the sculptor Mark Handforth and two speakers. The speakers also stand next to Mr. Giorno as the film flickers on the plywood wall of his not-quite-home.

ROBERTA SMITH