



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## IAN AND JAN: The Undiscovered Duo

### A Secret History of the Washington Body School Jeffry Cudlin and Meg Mitchell

Exhibition Advisors: Rex Weil & Central Intelligence Art

May 11 - June 3, 2007

Opening reception, Friday 5/11 7-9pm



This spring, many local museums and galleries will celebrate the Washington Color School , a group of abstract painters who, in the early 1960s, briefly made D.C. the center of the visual arts universe.

Local artists Jeffry Cudlin and Meg Mitchell won't be playing along. At DCAC, the two will stage an art historical intervention, weaving an alternative history for Washington art.

Cudlin and Mitchell will mount a retrospective for their alter egos, Ian and Jan—a fictitious husband-and-wife performance art duo. According to the exhibition's premise, Ian and Jan led the Washington Body School , a group that, in the late '60s and '70s, exhibited their body art alongside the work of prominent Washington abstract painters.

Ian and Jan: The Washington Body School will provide humorous commentary on Washington 's cultural legacy, on revisionist art historical agendas, and on gender bias and power politics in the arts. The show will include photographs, drawings, props, and videos of the couple in action.

The centerpiece of the show will be a video featuring interviews with D.C. gallerists, collectors, and historians, all recalling the rich, heretofore unexplored history of these two obscure performance artists. Participants in the video include: Jonathan Binstock, Curator for Contemporary Art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art; Sam Gilliam, celebrated artist; J. W. Mahoney, contributing writer and editor for Art in America; Joshua Shannon, Professor of Contemporary Art History at The University of Maryland, College Park; Andrea Pollan, Director of Curator's Office; Janis Goodman, critic for WETA's Around Town and instructor of art at the Corcoran College of Art and Design; and Tyler Green, blogger for Arts Journal and contributing writer for Fortune magazine and The Wall Street Journal.



Though the show exists as a parody, it also investigates the seductive power of master narratives, even discredited or demonstrably false ones. Ian and Jan may make you laugh, but they will also change the way you think about the business of cultural production—and Washington, D.C. — forever.

The District of Columbia Arts Center, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit arts space dedicated to promoting the freshest, most under-recognized artists in the Washington metropolitan area. Located in the heart of Adams Morgan, DCAC is comprised of a 750 square foot gallery and a 50 seat black box theater. Over the years, DCAC has received local, national and international reviews of its over 100 visual arts exhibitions and 500 performance events. We encourage an ongoing dialogue between new artists and the greater arts community, assisting artists in both the business and craft of art. As DCAC continues to draw poets, painters, actors, storytellers, sculptors, and performance artists from around the corner to around the world; the Center remains a mainstay of the Washington, DC arts community

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Gallery hours: Wed.-Sun. 2 p.m.- 7 p.m.