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ART IN GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

Bernadette Corporation

Be Corpse

Publication Date: March 2007

New York, NY (December 13, 2006) Sternberg Press and Art in General are pleased to announce *Be Corpse*, a new work of fiction by Bernadette Corporation.

An extract from the forthcoming book follows:

Be Corpse is a drama in three acts:

Act one – Fog Before Night

Act two – Night After Fog

Act three – The Foggy New Night

The main theme is zombies.

Be Corpse is a screenplay that cannot be a film; it is a film that can only be on paper. If the property of a film producer, Bernadette Corporation claims Be Corpse would be left derelict, abandoned to vagabonds and squatters. It is intended as a narrative of messy revenge, ruined by the screenplay form. With Be Corpse, Bernadette Corporation asks: How many amateur screenplay writers are there in existence compared to how many amateur novelists? What is the difference between a zombie and an insane cannibal?

Before the mind could distinguish between skin and air, before perception made its arrangements with the hard, flat edges of the earth, the body was there, invading space, waging nonstop war across a continuous front of stimuli. Upon its first distinction between external pressures that can be moved away from or removed, and internal pressures which are constant, the organism then set out on an adventure to change the external world while undertaking involved and interconnected activities to reduce the stimulation of the instincts. In this ensuing rich mental life, somewhere between the polarities of subject/object, pleasure/pain, activity/passivity, the sovereignty of the body was excluded. It became a mirror, a signboard, a device, a site of production, a trained pet.

Book Specs

Be Corpse is co-published by Sternberg Press and Art in General as part of its New Commissions Program. The 130-page, soft-cover book contains both color and black-and-white illustrations. For information on purchasing *Be Corpse*, please contact Art in General at info@artingeneral.org or call 212 219-0473.

Sternberg Press is a Berlin- and New York-based publishing venture featuring critical essays in art and culture, artists' books and art-related fiction.

Bernadette Corporation (<http://www.bernadettecorporation.com>) was formed in a Manhattan nightclub in 1994, and began organizing DIY social events that evolved into unauthorized art carnivals in Soho parking lots. From 1995 to 1997, the group worked under the guise of an underground fashion label. In 1999 it self-published a magazine, "Made in USA," and began producing videos, such as "Hell Frozen Over" (2000, A fashion film about the poetry of Stéphane Mallarmé and the color white) and "Get Rid of Yourself" (2003), a video-tract (a filmed essay that works by betraying its own form) that aligns itself with nascent forms of political resistance within the anti-globalization movement. In 2005 Bernadette Corporation authored the collective novel *Reena Spaulings*, which was published by Semiotext(e). Currently they are experimenting with the possibilities of an underground film studio in Berlin with their project "Pedestrian Cinema."

Art in General's **New Commissions Program** is made possible by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the Booth Ferris Foundation. Additional support has been provided by and the National Endowment for the Arts, Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro and George Mills.



About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists with the mission of informing and engaging the public about their work. In 25 years, Art in General has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists can exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Art in General has exhibited the work of nearly 5,000 artists working across a wide range of media.

General support of Art in General is provided by General Tools Manufacturing LLC; the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation; the Abraham and Lillian Rosenberg Foundation; Seymour and Dorothy Weinstein Foundation; Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; JPMorgan Chase; Miller-Sweezy Charitable Trust; Altria Group, Inc.; Bloomberg LP; The Greenwich Collection Ltd.; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The Cowles Charitable Trust; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; Edward and Marjorie Goldberger Foundation; Materials for the Arts; the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation; and by individuals.

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