Thomas Altheimer—*In Search Of The Miraculous II (In Search Of Bas Jan Ader)* *May 17 - June 1, 2008—Raid Projects, LA*

To repeat something is to make it possible anew — Giorgio Agamben

Dutch artist Thomas Altheimer arrives in LA in May 2008 to enact the first part of his performance triptych *In Search Of The Miraculous II (In Search Of Bas Jan Ader)*

The show at **Raid Projects** documents *One Night in Los Angeles*—Altheimer's night-time walk from the hills of Los Angeles down to the ocean. The piece consists of fourteen 11-by-14-inch black-and-white photographs, picturing Altheimer with a Maglite in hand on his search for Ader. This first piece will be followed in two years time by a trip across the Atlantic that sees Altheimer set out on a solo-sailing journey from Cape Cod, MA to Falmouth, England.

Bas Jan Ader went missing on a similar trip in 1975 (*In Search Of The Miraculous*). His boat was found drifting off the coast of Ireland in April 1976. Ader's body was never recovered. Now—in the new millennium—Thomas Altheimer hopes he will be able to succeed where his melancholic countryman failed; assisted by modern Global Positioning Satellite technology, Altheimer intends to undertake a meticulous search for the miraculous (and Ader) as he crosses the Atlantic Ocean.

Bas Jan Ader
Ader's 'In Search Of The Miraculous' according to a bulletin from the Art and Project Gallery, Amsterdam (Collection Estate of Bas Jan Ader):
Perhaps the greatest artistic quest of self-realization in our time, Bas Jan Ader's In Search of the Miraculous (One Night in Los Angeles) followed an all-night walk by the artist across the Los Angeles basin to the sea. In a further instalment of In Search of the Miraculous, Ader set off to cross the Atlantic in a thirteen-foot boat. Ader's quest ended in tragedy when his boat was found off the coast of Ireland (April 1976), its captain missing and presumed lost at sea.

Thomas Altheimer
Thomas Altheimer's background in comparative literature and political science distinctly informs his artistic practice. Taking the form of stagings and interventions that blur the boundary between the aesthetic and the political, reality and fiction, Altheimer's absurdist activism is executed with th chivalrous determination found in Cervantes' hero Don Quixote. Recent projects include: "Impossible. And yet there it is! No, impossible. Parallel Action#3.3.048" - a sonic attack on Guantanamo Bay - Arsenal: artists exploring the potential of sound as a weapon, Alma Enterprises (June 2006); Walter Benjamin - the appearance of a man on the Franco-Spanish border 66 years after the critical theorist's death (May 2006); Mission Iran – an attempt to instigate a democratic revolution akin to that which overthrew the Shah in 1979 (October - November 2006).
[Text by Alma Enterprises, London]

Pictures:

Ader on his 1973 LA walk *In Search Of The Miraculous (One Night In Los Angeles)*

Altheimer in a visit to Arkansas, July 2007

Ader on Ocean Wave, Cape Cod, MA, 1975

Altheimer on the phone with curator Lauren A. Wright, discussing logistics and the prospects of finding Ader

The show at Raid Projects is supported by:

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