

## MARGARETE ROEDER GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Imitating Nature in Her Manner of Operation:* John Cage and Tom Marioni

March 25–April 25, 2009

Margarete Roeder Gallery is pleased to present a two-person exhibition of works by **John Cage** and **Tom Marioni** entitled *Imitating Nature in Her Manner of Operation*, from March 25–April 25, 2009. A reception will be held on Wednesday, March 25, from 6–8 PM.

The exhibition's title is adapted from a quote (by Ananda Coomaraswamy, originally "Art is the imitation of nature in her manner of operation") that Cage favored; the exhibition itself will comprise new work by Marioni and a selected range of works in multiple media by Cage.

Marioni will create a new work especially for the exhibition entitled *Freehand Circle on Prepared Wall*. Executed directly on the wall in the greatest radius permitted by the artist's reach, the work is a continuation of a series of "performed" drawings that Marioni began in 1972 with *Drawing a Line as Far as I Can Reach* and continued with *Flying with Friends* and *Drum Brush Drawings*. Two works from the latter series, made with steel wire drum brushes on sandpaper, will also be shown. A concatenation of concept, materials, performance, and image, these works succinctly demonstrate the breadth of Marioni's practice.

Cage's work exhibited here, beginning with his plexigrams *Not Wanting to Say Anything About Marcel*, 1969, will include his *Where R = Ryoanji* drawings (inspired by the rock gardens of Kyoto but made by following chance operations produced by a computer program), *River Rocks and Smoke* watercolors, and a selection of unique works produced by methods as varied as dropping inked strings on to the sheet, or running burning paper through a press. Cage combined traditional and modern media with chance operations and practices derived from algorithms natural and mathematical to produce works as varied as the world in which we live.

Marioni (born, 1937, Cincinnati) lives in San Francisco. He has exhibited his work and performed at museums internationally, including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris and the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; he was the founder of the Museum of Conceptual Art in 1970.

Cage (born 1912, Los Angeles; died 1992, New York) was well known as an experimental composer, philosopher, writer, and visual artist. A protean figure of the postwar avant-garde, Cage collaborated with Merce Cunningham, and visual artists including Joseph Beuys, Robert Rauschenberg, and Nam June Paik.

Both artists are currently exhibiting in *The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989*, at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, through April 19, 2009.

For further information and images contact: (212) 925 6098 or [info@roedergallery.com](mailto:info@roedergallery.com)

## MARGARETE ROEDER GALLERY

*Imitating Nature in Her Manner of Operation:*  
John Cage and Tom Marioni



## MARGARETE ROEDER GALLERY

*Imitating Nature in Her Manner of Operation:*  
John Cage and Tom Marioni

