

## Marni Kotak

How to French Kiss  
June 19th, 2009

*How to French Kiss*  
at Pool Art Fair NYC  
March 7th 2009



*How to French Kiss* is a re-enactment of my experience of practicing how to make out with my best friend in the 5th grade while my friend and I covered our mouths with plastic baggies so as not to be "really making out." The piece is one of my "Found Performances," or re-enactments of my real life experiences. In these works, I utilize the embodied performative event to express my real emotional experience in as authentic a way as possible for myself and the audience, attempting to somehow transcend pre-determined, primarily production-driven, social roles.

It is extremely difficult, some would argue impossible, to communicate an authentic personal voice in today's contemporary world where the endless simulacra of experience seems to engender a waning of all affect and real meaning. Faced with this contemporary issue, I am most concerned with the question of how one can have and convey a real experience. And furthermore, how do we know and hold onto what is real when our lives are constantly mediated, produced, or numbed by the power of the spectacle?