

ART
With Politics in the Air, a Freedom Free-for-All Comes to Town



Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times

"Democracy in America: The National Campaign," an exhibition at the Park Avenue Armory.

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Published: September 22, 2008

"Democracy in America: The National Campaign" at the Park Avenue Armory is a nonpartisan, nonelectoral but intensely political convention-as-art-exhibition timed to coincide with the 2008 presidential race.

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Like its Democratic and Republican counterparts, it lasts just a few days (it opened on Sunday and closes on Saturday) and involves lots of speeches, music, funny hats and parties. But there are differences. The music is protest-song karaoke. The exhibition's best work, though, is film. In the tour-de-force department, the duo Ligorano/Reese projects vintage Hollywood propaganda movies onto the head of a pin. And Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung, in a hilariously scabrous animation called "Residential Erection," offers a take-no-prisoners approach to the current American political lineup: everyone has to go. To all, no tags, buttons, tickets, proof of citizenship will be required.

Organized by Creative Time, which specializes in nonprofit public events, it is the final stage of a yearlong project for which its curator, Nato Thompson, traveled the country,

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