Come forth! Eat, drink, look...

We are going to place a unique table for thirteen invited guests in the middle of the gallery. Surrounding the table, there will be twenty floor-to-ceiling bamboo poles. Each pole will support an artwork. And so we have a group exhibition that surrounds ten consecutive dinners, cooked up and dined upon by the guests.

The dinner mechanics are a communal effort (potluck). Varying themes/ingredients will guide each meal. The dining experience is an exclusive gift: only those invited will be served, upon the condition that they will also be watched by passersby who come to see the show (and hence the dinner).

It is our hope that dinner table conversations will be guided by the most delicious contributions: the surrounding artworks and the dialogues they require/inspire. The elected nineteen painters, sculptors, photographers, and filmmakers have been chosen not upon stylistic or thematic criteria but through curiosity,
nepotism, and taste.

This is a direct challenge to Rirkrit Tiravanija. It is entirely inspired by Rirkrit's experiments with the gift economy within the commercial art gallery. Rirkrit affirmed the power of human interaction within an environment that was out of practice with generosity. He reintroduced the working artist to the viewer as well as questioned the boundaries of the art market in the 1990's. As a result he became a very marketable artwork. Today it seems his experiments are understood more as historicized myth than actual experience. We have no qualm with his success but we do think that his energy and engagement is needed now more than ever.

As a calling from one generation to another we say...

Rirkrit where are you? It is 2008...
Is there no pushing forward?

Or are we only continuing to fetishize artworks whose power/function/effectiveness comfortably relies upon stagnant historical canons. Too often obtuse banality seems to dominate our experience with art. We have no illusions about revolution; but why not start somewhere hopeful: a round table engineered for good, open discussion and, hopefully, brazen fun. From a nightly nucleus at 436 West 15th Street we hope to serve up both a reminder of and a call for alternative palettes, conspicuous engagement, and basic pleasures.