

Grand Arts presents new work by

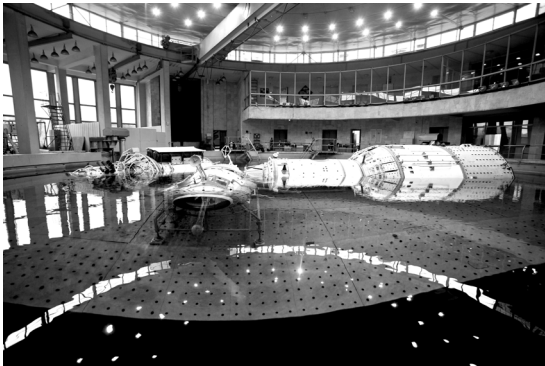
**Tavares Strachan**

# **The Orthostatic Tolerance:** Launching into an Infinite Distance

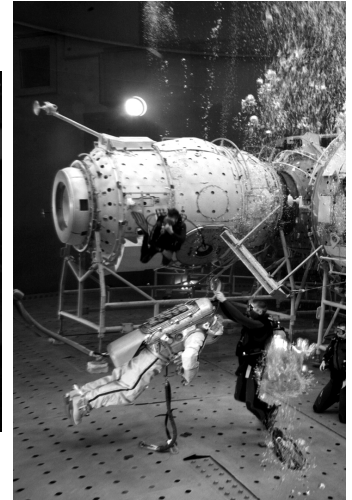
February 5 – April 3, 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-9PM at Grand Arts  
Join us on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM for a conversation between  
Tavares Strachan and Grand Arts Artistic Director, Stacy Switzer.

All events are free and open to the public.



Space Walk Training Facility – Russia



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 14, 2010**

Grand Arts is pleased to present ***Orthostatic Tolerance: Launching into an Infinite Distance*** a new project by Bahamian-born, New York-based artist Tavares Strachan. This solo exhibition opens at Grand Arts on Friday, February 5th, 2010 with an opening reception from 6-9PM, and will be on view through April 3rd, 2010.

As an explorer, I engage in systems of energy that never begin or end; these engagements produce objects and encounters that reflect human experience.

—Tavares Strachan

*Proposal for the Orthostatic Tolerance 2007*

Strachan's Grand Arts project comes after two years of intensive research and hands-on training that has taken him to the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia. The title of this ongoing, multi-phase project, *Orthostatic Tolerance*, refers to the stress endured by astronauts and deep-sea divers alike upon exiting and then re-entering the breathable atmosphere of our planet. Testing himself through exertion of body and mind, Strachan's interest lies in the exploration of boundaries, the limits of human possibility and the experience of being a displaced member of a society where issues such as science, history and modern imperialism converge.

This Grand Arts project features a life-size blown glass diver submerged in a 1700-pound tank filled with 5 tons of mineral oil. Transparent yet distorted, dense yet hollow, the figure appears to float via the illusion of light and material.

The *Orthostatic Tolerance* investigates the artist's long-term relationship with his home country, the Bahamas. Strachan has taken steps to establish an Ocean and Aerospace Exploration Agency in Nassau (BASEC) where he can continue his own exploration efforts while fostering those of the community. Strachan is perhaps best known to date for the work, *The Distance Between What We Have and What We Want*, 2004-06. For this project, Strachan embarked on an Arctic exploration during which he extracted a 4.5-ton block of ice and shipped it to his former grade school in Nassau, where it was kept frozen by a solar-powered freezer. For a year after the Arctic remnant was installed in the sub-tropical environment, Strachan performed lectures in elementary schools throughout the Bahamas. A continuation of this project included sculptures of school desks and chalkboards made from materials native to the Bahamas—calcium carbonate/limestone chalk and graphite—which were featured in Grand Arts' 2007 group exhibition, *From the Fat of the Land: Alchemies, Ecologies, Attractions*.

Tavares Strachan and Grand Arts would like to thank the MIT List Visual Arts Center for their assistance and co-production of *Orthostatic Tolerance*. MIT will present the next phase of the project. ***Orthostatic Tolerance: It Might Not Be Such a Bad Idea If I Never Went Home***, will open at the List Visual Arts Center on May 7th, 2010 on view through July 11th, 2010. More information on the MIT presentation of this project can be found at <http://listart.mit.edu>.

### **About the Artist**

Born in 1979 in Nassau, Bahamas, **Tavares Strachan** is based in New York, NY. Strachan holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Yale University. He has had solo exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and the Mattress Factory, Pittsburg (2009); at Pierogi 2000, Leipzig, Germany and Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles (2008); The Luggage Store, San Francisco and Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York (2006). Strachan has also been included in The 2008 Armory Show, New York and at group exhibitions at the Queens Museum of Art, New York; Pierogi, Brooklyn; Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, and the Art Dealers Association of America 2008 Art Show, New York. Strachan's work has been written about in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *New York Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art Papers*, *Flash Art* and *Art in America*.

### **For more information on this project or Grand Arts, please contact:**

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