



## The Butcher's Shop

**Philip Haas**

USA, 2008

Two-Screen installation  
5.1 Stereo Surround Sound

Producer: **Philip Haas**  
Written by: **Philip Haas**  
Cinematographer: **Sean Bobbitt**  
Editor: **Jodi Gibson**  
Production Designer: **Stuart Nunn**  
Sound: **Richard King**  
Music: **Angelo Badalamenti**  
Principal Cast: **Ivan Putrov, Adam Burton, Tam Mutu, Aaron Hunt, Lydia Bewley**

Commissioned by The Kimbell Art Museum

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Haas Pictures, Inc.,**  
80 Warren Street, Suite 31,  
New York NY 10007 USA.  
T (212) 406-4171 F (212) 406-7049

**Kimbell Art Museum,**  
3333 Camp Bowie Boulevard,  
Fort Worth TX 76107-2792 USA.  
T (817) 332-8451 F (817) 877-1264  
curators@kimbellart.org

Curated by Noah Cowan and  
Francisco Alvarez

Presented in partnership with the Royal  
Ontario Museum's Institute for  
Contemporary Culture

Filmmaker Philip Haas has been a successful interlocutor between film and the visual arts since his groundbreaking essay documentary, *A Day on the Grand Canal with the Emperor of China (or Surface Is Illusion but So Is Depth)*, which featured an ebullient David Hockney discussing a late seventeenth-century Chinese scroll by artist Wang Hui. His subsequent work, grouped under the "Magicians of the Earth" moniker, explored the working practices and impacts of artists in non-Western cultures. After a fifteen-year break, during which he became a much-praised international feature filmmaker (*Up at the Villa, Angels and Insects*), Haas has returned to the visual arts with an ambitious new project.

Commissioned by the Kimbell Art Museum in Forth Worth, Texas, *The Butcher's Shop* is the first in a series of installation works to animate the Kimbell's collection in innovative ways. Two projections reveal the social and aesthetic context of Annibale Carracci's late sixteenth-century painting, *The Butcher's Shop*. One screen captures what is happening within the frame of the painting: two butchers work their trade and jocularly pose for the artist. The other screen turns the viewer around to face the painter himself and the bustling city life behind him. Through controlled production in a studio, Haas evokes the chiaroscuro of the period's aesthetics and the formal precision of the painter's work while giving us clues to the social context of Carracci's age.

A haunting score by Angelo Badalamenti sets a contemplative mood, at once

contemporary and immersive.

The work is mounted within the Spirit House, near the entry doors of the Royal Ontario Museum. This project represents our second collaboration with the ROM's Institute of Contemporary Culture, the mandate of which is to interrogate the relationship between the twenty-first century and the museum's natural and social history collections.

■ **Noah Cowan**



**Philip Haas** has directed six features films, including *The Music of Chance* (93), the Academy Award®-nominated *Angels and Insects* (95) and *Up at the Villa* (00). Retrospectives of his documentaries – ten films, all dealing with contemporary

visual artists, ranging from David Hockney to Australian aboriginal ground painters – have been held at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York, the Tate Gallery in London and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. He was educated at Harvard University and teaches at Princeton University.