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For Immediate Release

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TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. presents

SCHEMA CORPOREAL

a solo exhibition by new-media artist **Hector Canonge**

opens June 13 through July 11, 2009

artist talk: July 11, 6-9pm

TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program is pleased to present **Schema CorpoReal** by new-media artist **Hector Canonge**, on view from **June 13 to July 11, 2009** at TOPAZ ARTS Gallery. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, June 13th from 3-6pm. An artist talk will take place on Saturday, July 11, 6-9pm. The gallery is located at **55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens**. Subway: #7-train to 61 St. or the R, V, G trains to Northern Blvd. Details available at www.topazarts.org. Viewing hours for this exhibition are on Saturdays, 6-9pm or by appointment – please call 718-505-0440 or email info@topazarts.org.

Schema CorpoReal explores the politics and cultural attitudes about gender and identity. Elements in the exhibition treat the cultural references of the “body image” as well as the manner in which language plays a determining role in the creation of persona and self. For this solo exhibition at TOPAZ ARTS, new-media artist, Hector Canonge, investigates sexuality, identity discourse, and the politics of migration through various technological approaches in his interactive, site-specific, and video installation works. Integrating various means of communication and new technologies to establish connections between human (inter)actions, Canonge creates intriguing tactile installations for audiences to participate and experience.

Hector Canonge is a filmmaker and New-media artist who lives and works in NYC where he studied literature, filmmaking and Integrated Media Arts. His most recent projects are *18 Beats* on view at Discover Queens Visitors Center; *Germinal* on view at City Without Walls, as part of his work in the Newark New Media Residency Program; and *Deceptive Landscapes* at Aferro Gallery, as part of his research as a visiting media artist at New Jersey City University, AIR Program. Canonge's work has been exhibited at the Queens Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of Arts, Jersey City Museum, and at the Paul Robeson Galleries (Rutgers-Newark), Grace Gallery (Brooklyn), Y Gallery (Jackson Heights, NY), Manhattan Culture Center Galley (NYC) and in other museums and galleries internationally. Canonge has received many awards including a residency with the Bronx Museum of the Arts AIM 27 Program, a nomination for the Rockefeller Fellowship in New Media Arts, and a residency as an Associate Artist at Atlantic Center for the Arts, Digital Media Program. He has worked with commissions from organizations such as NYSCA, Queens Council on the Arts, Association of Hispanic Arts, LMCC-MCAF, and NOMAA. Canonge has been an adjunct instructor of multimedia technologies at NYC College of Technology, CUNY. He has taught at the New School University, Brooklyn Community Access Television, Bronx River Arts Center, and at the Museum of the Moving Image. As part of his community initiatives, he started the monthly LGBT film program CINEMAROSA. He is also the co-founder of QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development, a nonprofit arts organization that serves various communities of Queens with media programs in the arts like FRAMING AIDS, a multidisciplinary event in observance of Worlds AIDS Day.

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by artists Todd Richmond and Paz Tanjuaquio. TOPAZ ARTS fosters the creative process, producing new works and providing public programs for contemporary performing and visual arts. TOPAZ ARTS maintains a 2,500 sq. ft. multidisciplinary arts center in Woodside, Queens which includes a dance rehearsal space, audio room, and gallery. Providing affordable space, technical support, residencies and presentation opportunities, TOPAZ ARTS enables artists to realize their projects and the process shared with audiences. www.topazarts.org

The **TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program** is made possible by NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. **TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.** programs are made possible, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Meet the Composer Commissioning/USA, The F.B. Heron Foundation, Foundation of Contemporary Art; Dance Theater Workshop's Outer/Space Program; Material for the Arts, a program of Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Sanitation and Board of Education; and the generosity of private individuals.

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