

NICHOLAS WEIST ON CHRISTOPHER HO + TROY RICHARDS

# Welcome to Fantasy Island



**BMW Munich-Vienna Tour**  
for John Chamberlain

DAY 1: Fly first class on Lufthansa Airlines to Munich. Private transfer in BMW X5 to Deutscherhof Hotel. Enjoy local Bavarian specialties and beer from the legend Patenkeller under vaulted stone dome from 1405. DAY 2: Circumnavigate entire coast to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Tour factory and visit "Partenocher" with Chief of Design Adrian von Hoopeloh. Release pre-selected, customized limited-production 99i Coupe. Meet with BMW technician for orientation on no-speed-limit section of autobahn. DAY 3: Drive through Bavaria: Alps to Neuschwanstein. Visit King Ludwig's Castle. Drive through Tyrol from Mountains to Salzburg. Check into suite at Hotel Hotel Hobers. Enjoy light snack on private balcony overlooking Salzburg and surrounding Alps. DAY 4: 99i. Free day. DAY 5: Drive to Vienna. Check into Grandhotel. Enjoy specially designed eight-course menu, discussion of Rudolf Gatzert. Attend concert. DAY 6: Free day. DAY 7: Attend evening performance at Vienna State Opera. DAY 8: Drop off BMW to be shipped to location of choice in United States. Private transfer in BMW 740Li to airport. Return first class on Lufthansa Airlines. \$80,000

Christopher Ho and Troy Richards' project &Leisure, which exists in object form as an artist book, is a series of proposals to contemporary artists that suggest vacation packages related to their work. The travel plans range from serious to snarky—everything from an all-American tour through Maine for Jules de Balincourt to a million-dollar shopping spree in Dubai for Barbara Kruger. The most successful grey areas between the two are like the tour of a no-speed-limits section of the Autobahn in a top-of-the-line BMW for John Chamberlain; one can picture him sitting on his hands to keep from tearing up the car, but at the same time finding valuable the experience of speed and power so necessary to the metatext of his work.


The rest of Chamberlain's trip includes more typical vacation ideas like tours of castles, samplings of local cuisine, and "free days." These sorts of activities are part of Ho and Richards' investigation into the knotty problem of leisure time for artists. Is there such a thing, they ask, as a vacation for an artist? Their job is, arguably, to question, sort, and attempt to find meaning in life experiences. Every moment then is more food for powder. But Daniel Joseph Martinez, one of the subjects of &Leisure, thinks that vacation in any context, "has to do with the removal

of the ordinary reality and burdens of a normal life." In this way even Jennifer Dalton's visit to the Library of Congress, complete with tutorials about their cataloguing system and meetings with information science professionals, can be considered downtime. But Dalton noted that while such a trip could be valuable to her work and would by all means be interesting, it might be a little bit *Fantasy Island*—like if one asked for some milk and got a cow in reply. Dalton said she *would* take the trip as proposed, though, as did every one of the subjects of &Leisure who answered a few questions to put to them about it.

That each of the artists would agree to take their trips is proof positive that Ho and Richards' ideas should be examined in further depth. They have also proposed that a foundation be organized that funds artists' leisure time, and that collectors should consider offering vacations to artists in lieu of buying their work. This side of &Leisure investigates the

nature of ownership versus an honest investiture in supporting the arts; a litmus test, if you will, for determining the intentions of collectors.

Santiago Sierra, another subject of &Leisure, thinks that, "all time eventually leads to work." No matter where an artist finds him or herself—whether on an island with a piña colada, as Dalton mentioned she would enjoy, or touring Le Courbusier's India, which was proposed for Julie Mehretu—every moment is a potential golden opportunity. And, Sierra continues, "Artists are permanently on vacation." ♦



**Visit to the Library of Congress**  
for Jennifer Dalton

DAY 1: Fly first class on American Airlines to Washington, D.C. Check into Federal Suite at Hay-Adams Hotel, featuring interiors by Washingtonian Thomas Pheasant and panoramic views of the White House. Dine on classic American fare at Lafayette Room. DAY 2: Morning meeting with Boacher Wiggins, Director of the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate at the Library of Congress. Attend presentations of WOCES, METS and MARCMIL standards. Evening private viewing of A Century of Creativity, an exhibition at the Thomas Jefferson Building about the MacDowell Colony. DAY 3: Free day. DAY 4: Brunch at the Hay-Adams with Professor José-María Griffiths, Chair of the Committee on the Future of Bibliographic Control. Dine as the guest of honor at the two-story Italian Renaissance style Great Hall at the American Library Association Annual Gala. DAY 5: Free day. DAY 6: Accompany Librarian of Congress James H. Billington for private tour of some of the 1345 1774 items under his care. DAY 7: Lunch with Judith A. Mansfield, Chief of Arts and Sciences Cataloging Division, and Dennis McGovern, Chief of Decimal Classification Division. Receive gift of bibliographic products and services, including Cataloger's Desktop, Classification Web, Cataloging Manuals, and MARC Distribution. Return first class on American Airlines. \$8,500

Christopher Ho + Troy Richards, from &Leisure, 2007. Courtesy the artists. Opposite: Photograph courtesy Darren Knight Gallery.