

Pilot Program

Where Cindy Sherman usurps identities, **Christine Hill** appropriates professions. The 31-year-old conceptualist, whose projects include *Volksboutique*, a secondhand clothing store in Berlin; *Tourguide*, a New York tourist agency; and *Portable Office/Courier Bag/Survival Kit*, at the Kunsthalle Hamburg this month, is now taking on the TV talk show.

Pilot, Hill's actual production, based on real late-night talk shows, takes place at New

York's Ronald Feldman Fine Arts through the 14th of this month. Taping begins the 6th.

Gallery visitors can view Hill's whole enterprise in a functioning television studio, witnessing onstage and backstage activities as interesting or dull as meetings with writers or workers lunching.

The "head-to-head interview process fits with my work," Hill says. There'll be a real host, real guests (though not the conventional celebrities—unless a Kinko's employee who loves his job counts), and scripted monologues. "It's based on improv comedy," she explains, "which I've studied for a year and a half."



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A guest on Christine Hill's *Pilot*.

The yield for Hill "is a demo tape, and the idea is to present it." Nevertheless, she insists, "the success doesn't hinge on whether it gets picked up on TV." Which doesn't mean it would displease her if it did.

—Barbara A. MacAdam