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## WEEKEND ATTS FINE ARTS LEISURE

The New York Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

## Whitney Awards Fast

Omer Fast, the 36-year-old Israeli-born artist, has won this year's Bucksbaum Award from the Whitney Museum of American Art. The prize, given to an emerging artist who is in the Whitney Biennial, comes with a \$100,000 stipend and a solo exhibition at the museum.

In a darkened room on the Whitney's third floor, Mr. Fast's 14-minute, four-channel video "The Casting" plays on two suspended screens. Mr. Fast interviews an American Army sergeant who recounts two stories: one about dating a woman while he was stationed in Germany and the other about accidentally killing a civilian in Iraq. Hauntingly interwoven, the two narratives - and their re-enactments - form a comment on love and death, on memory and self-hatred.

The prize was established in 2000 by the museum and the Bucksbaum Family Foundation of Des Moines, which is overseen by Melva Bucksbaum, a Whitney trustee since 1996.