

SculptureCenter
44-19 Purves Street
Long Island City, New York 11101
t 718.361.1750
f 718.786.9336
info@sculpture-center.org
www.sculpture-center.org

For Immediate Release

Release Date:
April 17, 2009

Exhibition:
Rashid Johnson:
Smoke and Mirrors

Exhibition Dates:
May 10 – August 3, 2009

Opening Reception:
Sunday, May 10, 5-7pm

Gallery Hours:
Thursday – Monday, 11am-6pm

Admission:
\$5 suggested donation

Media Contact:
Nickolas Roudané
t 718.361.1750
f 718.786.9336
press@sculpture-center.org

RASHID JOHNSON: SMOKE AND MIRRORS

SCULPTURECENTER PRESENTS A NEW EXHIBITION BY RASHID JOHNSON

New York – SculptureCenter is pleased to present ***Smoke and Mirrors*** by **Rashid Johnson**. *Smoke and Mirrors* will be on view **May 10–August 3, 2009** with an opening reception on **Sunday, May 10, 2009 from 5-7pm**.

For his first solo museum show in New York, Rashid Johnson will present a number of new large-scale sculptural works that suggest altars, entertainment consoles, or constructivist-like abstractions alongside photographs and works in other media. Considered one of the up and coming artists whose work has been termed “post-black”, Johnson engages with racial identity but in ways that insist on fluidity and contradiction. Johnson uses materials such as steel, poured wax, shea butter, and large coal boulders while juxtaposing relics and artifacts in an approach that flirts with the shamanistic.

Concerned equally with 20th Century art history, popular culture and African American intellectual history, Johnson cites Sun Ra, Joseph Beuys, Rosalind Krauss, Richard Pryor, Hans Haacke, Carl Andre among his influences. Rashid Johnson studied at Columbia College, Chicago (1996-2000) and the School at the Art Institute of Chicago (2004-2005). His exhibitions include *Thirty Americans* (2008, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL); *A Perfect Union...More or Less*, (2004, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, IL); and *Freestyle*, (2001, The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY). Recent solo exhibitions include *The Dead Lecturer: Laboratory, Dojo, and Performance Space*, The Powerhouse, Memphis, TN, and *Sharpening My Oyster Knife* (2008, the Magdeburger Kunstmuseum, Magdeburg, Germany). He lives and works in New York.

Thanks

SculptureCenter’s programs are supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts; The New York State Council on the Arts; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; as well as The A. Woodner Fund; Citibank; Joan Mitchell Foundation; The Kraus Family Foundation; The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.; The Mathis-Pfohl Foundation, The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; The Pollock-Krasner Foundation; and The Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation. We also acknowledge the generous support of our Board of Trustees, individual donors and members, and our dedicated interns and volunteers.

About SculptureCenter

Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter is a not-for-profit arts institution dedicated to experimental and innovative developments in contemporary sculpture. SculptureCenter

commissions new work and presents exhibits by emerging and established, national and international artists. In 2001, SculptureCenter purchased a former trolley repair shop in Long Island City, Queens. This facility, designed by artist/designer Maya Lin, includes 6,000 square feet of interior exhibition space, offices, and outdoor exhibition space.

For additional information or photographs, please contact Nickolas Roudané at 718.361.1750 or press@sculpture-center.org