

**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 30, 2009

Exhibition:  
*The University of Trash*

Exhibition Dates:  
May 10 – August 3, 2009

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

*University of Trash* Gallery Hours:  
Thursday, 11am-8pm  
Friday–Monday, 11am-6pm

Admission:  
\$5 suggested donation

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

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TRASH

SCULPTURECENTER PRESENTS A NEW PROJECT BY MICHAEL CATALDI AND NILS NORMAN

**New York** – SculptureCenter is pleased to present *The University of Trash*, a project by **Michael Cataldi** and **Nils Norman**. *The University of Trash* will be on view **May 10–August 3, 2009** with an opening reception on **Sunday, May 10, 2009 5-7pm**.

*The University of Trash* is an experiment in alternative architecture, urbanism, and pedagogy produced through SculptureCenter's Artist-in-Residence program. Drawing from utopian ideals and radical urban projects undertaken since the 1960s, the artists will create an installation that functions as a temporary, makeshift University - hosting courses, lectures, presentations, and workshops. A Free Skool program will operate within the University, offering the public the opportunity to propose their own courses - open and free for all who sign up and attend throughout the duration of the exhibition. To see all events or to make a proposal for an event, please visit [www.universityoftrash.org](http://www.universityoftrash.org).

Working collaboratively with students, local organizations, activists, and academics, the artists have been gathering and researching material related to activities of the 1960s countercultural Appropriate Technology movement, experimental pedagogy, adventure playgrounds, Non-plan, emergency and low-impact design, the vernacular of informal housing, and historical sites of activism.

*The University of Trash* partly stems from Norman's research of Adventure Playgrounds. A popular movement that began in the late 1930s, Adventure Playgrounds reclaimed bombed out or otherwise derelict urban spaces as spaces for play as open ended ground for experimentation. Building on Cataldi's research on New York's Lower East Side, the artists will construct a functional model of the Tompkins Square Park Bandshell in collaboration with **Just Seeds/Visual Resistance Artists' Cooperative**.

High School students from **City-As-School** have been working with the artists to create *The Skool of Refuse and Appropriation*, a vernacular living/working node as part of the installation. Research, discussion, drawing, and model making determine the form and function of the structures. *The University of Trash* is also hosting the *House Magic Bureau of Foreign Correspondence*, a working research office dedicated to squatted social center movements throughout Europe, containing images, documents, and videos collected by **Alan Moore** and members of **ABC No Rio** visual arts collective in New York.

Throughout the exhibition there will be a mix of workshops, screenings, and presentations focusing on grass roots, self-organized urbanism, DIY architecture and the evolving aesthetics and politics of public space. Scheduled programs include low-power radio transmitter building workshops, and presentations and film programs by collaborators including **free103point9**,

**Prometheus Radio, neuroTransmitter, CUP (Center for Urban Pedagogy), Build it Green, NYC, and Alastair Gordon. Max Goldfarb's** M49 mobile radio truck will broadcast **Summer Sessions**, a series of outdoor concerts on weekend evenings in June and July. A schedule of events will be released in a separate press release and updated regularly on SculptureCenter's website.

*The University of Trash* runs concurrently with *Red Lines Housing Crisis Learning Center*, an exhibition by **Damon Rich** at the Queens Museum of Art. These two exhibitions are collaborating to co-host public programs, in addition, each exhibition will include one element from the other.

Michael Cataldi (born 1982, Philadelphia) is an artist whose work intervenes in the public sphere. Cataldi's site generated projects, ranging from ad hoc architectures to improvised play structures, propose the re-imagination and re-use of space and place.

Nils Norman (born 1966, UK) is known worldwide as an artist and activist in the fields of art and urbanism. Specializing in political and economical theories of utopia and distopia, Norman uses his knowledge to examine and critique existing structures and social situations, particularly within urban landscapes.

Thanks

*The University of Trash* is presented through SculptureCenter's Artist-in-Residence program and is funded in part by contributions from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Kraus Family Foundation, Jeanne Donovan Fisher, The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, and The Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation.

SculptureCenter's annual programs are supported by The National Endowment for the Arts; The New York State Council on the Arts; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and New York City Councilman Eric Gioia as well as The A. Woodner Fund; Citibank; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Joan Mitchell Foundation; The Kraus Family Foundation; The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.; The Mathis- Pfohl Foundation; The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; The New York Community Trust; the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; The Pollock-Krasner Foundation; and The Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation.

Additional Thanks

Mori Buster, Max Goldfarb, Andre Knights and City-As-School, Nicole Jaquis and the RECYOUTH Programs at Hamilton Fish Computer Resource Center of NYC Parks and Recreation, Metropolitan Paper Recycling, 212box, and Build it Green, NYC.

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](mailto:press@sculpture-center.org)