

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:
February 26, 2016

Exhibition:
***In Practice: Fantasy Can Invent
Nothing New***

Dates:
May 1–August 1, 2016

Opening Reception:
Saturday, April 30, 2016, 6–8pm

Media Contacts:

Ariel Hudes
arielhudes@gmail.com
610.999.2829

Ben Whine
press@sculpture-center.org
718.361.1750 x117

IN PRACTICE: FANTASY CAN INVENT NOTHING NEW

2015–16 IN PRACTICE PROGRAM FEATURES NEW COMMISSIONED WORKS BY CHRISTOPHER AQUE, PHILLIP BIRCH, ONYEDIKA CHUKE, JONATHAN EHRENBERG, TAMAR ETTUN, RAQUE FORD, JEANNINE HAN, ELIZABETH JAEGER, MEREDITH JAMES, JAMIE SNEIDER, PATRICE RENEE WASHINGTON, AND TUGULDUR YONDONJAMTS

Long Island City, NY – SculptureCenter is pleased to announce *Fantasy Can Invent Nothing New*, an exhibition presented through *In Practice*, SculptureCenter’s open call commissioning program for emerging artists.

The title of this exhibition, taken directly from Freud’s lecture on dreams, is a sentence stopped midway. He completes the thought by stating that the creative process of the mind can only regroup elements from already existing sources—that any one creative fantasy is a work of translating what one knows of reality into an imaginary space. The exhibition, organized from proposals for new work submitted through SculptureCenter’s annual open call, borrows from the operation of the dream composite—what Freud termed “condensation”—to foreground practices that employ the means of combining and blending often contradictory elements into a collective image. The artists in the exhibition each propose fantastical places or narratives that are differentiated by distinct material approaches.

If the purpose of recreating fantasies of one’s psychic life is to tease out questions of being, the exhibition’s composed scenes are a result of an almost obsessive inner-directedness. Whether cast, traced, projected, or fragmented, the self is designated as the site and source of formation, assuming various forms and gestures that are both physically absolute and psychologically uncertain. When inclined to ascribe a specific meaning to the work, the concept of the composite serves as a reminder that visual representations are mental acts of transformation, distortion, and abstraction of our many thoughts, memories, and desires. These assemblages of artistic wit—a blend of fragments that comprise a larger composition—unprivilege the notion of an exclusive object and instead seek to propose connections between multiple elements in an effort to offer clues to scenarios that appear unequivocally bizarre.

Featuring newly commissioned works by **Christopher Aque, Phillip Birch, Onyedika Chuke, Jonathan Ehrenberg, Tamar Ettun, Raque Ford, Jeannine Han, Elizabeth Jaeger, Meredith James, Jamie Sneider, Patrice Renee Washington, and Tuguldur Yondonjams.**

Mining the way one’s fantasy directs desire toward the setting and not the object, **Christopher Aque’s** life-size glass form and an accompanying video work depict scenes of male cruising at the site of the new World Trade Center; **Jeannine Han** presents a tableau vivant, accompanied by a 16mm film, made in

collaboration with Daniel Riley, as a mise-en-scène of subjects and symbols that get suspended in a space that's real and oneiric; **Meredith James** invites viewers to inhabit scenes of altered perception where everyday objects of use are utilized as placeholders for scenographic dioramas. Proposing a multi-dimensional self, **Phillip Birch's** projected hologram actors are in many ways an extension of the artist and a visualization of a split-subject while **Jonathan Ehrenberg's** video narrative is a representation of a first and a third person's recurring dream scenario structured by the formal device of the loop; **Patrice Renee Washington** inserts two, four-part ceramic, white forms into cavernous shelving units that implies a literal fitting in and a plural makeup of being. Proposing narratives culled from multiple sources, **Onyedika Chuke** maps a specific period of war by situating separate occurrences that took place at the time and the geographical location of conflict; **Tamar Ettun** presents colorful site arrangements of cast limbs and repurposed objects that diverge the mental impact of trauma; **Raque Ford's** polyptych plexiglass panel reveals an enigmatic narrative of a sexual encounter between two famous female personas told through laser cut imagery and handwritten lyrics; **Tuguldur Yondonjams** combines elements of mythos and the real in a dislocation and mapping of subjects who get suspended in time and across the continental space. Works structured by the mental act of recuperation are **Elizabeth Jaeger's** arrangement of deep ceramic vessels on steel shelving structures that the artist perceives as psychological containers of physical conditions brought upon by the mind, as **Jamie Sneider's** composed scene of steel and aluminum medical equipment and dyed paper and textiles wavers between a suggested absence and an influx of activity.

Curated by SculptureCenter's 2016 Curatorial Fellow **Olga Dekalo**.

ON VIEW CONCURRENTLY

Leslie Hewitt: Collective Stance, featuring new and existing work including film installations produced in collaboration with cinematographer Bradford Young inspired by a civil rights era photo archive. May 1–August 1, 2016

About SculptureCenter

Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter is a not-for-profit arts institution in Long Island City, NY dedicated to experimental and innovative developments in contemporary sculpture. SculptureCenter commissions new works and presents exhibitions by emerging and established, national and international artists. Our programs identify new talent, explore the conceptual, aesthetic and material concerns of contemporary sculpture, and encourage independent vision.

SculptureCenter's major exhibition and operating support is generously provided by grants from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Jeanne Donovan Fisher; the Kraus Family Foundation; the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; the A. Woodner Fund; and contributions from our Board of Trustees. Additional funding is provided by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation and contributions from many generous individuals.

In Practice: Fantasy Can Invent Nothing New is presented with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pollock-Krasner Foundation.

###