For Immediate Release

LARA SCHNITGER:
TWO MASTERS AND HER VILE PERFUME

New York – SculptureCenter is pleased to present a new project by Lara Schnitger titled Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume, her first solo exhibition in a U.S. museum. Schnitger, a Dutch-born, Los Angeles-based artist, will create a new installation in SculptureCenter’s dramatic central space that plays with themes of sensual pleasure, seduction and exile. Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume will be on view September 13 – November 29, 2010. An opening reception will take place Sunday September 12th 5 – 7 pm and is open to the public.

Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume is a highly theatrical installation featuring Schnitger’s signature wood and fabric sculptures. Themes of metamorphosis, divinity, decay, and sadomasochism -- all of which have been present in Schnitger’s past work -- will converge in an installation that will transform the SculptureCenter's central exhibition hall. The structure of the work is reminiscent of a medieval piazza or even a cathedral where adulation, commerce, and politics occupy the same space. The installation is populated by figurative forms that suggest demons, ghosts, businessmen, bikers as well as more abstract sculptures.

Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume puts forward a type of gothic modernity and reflects the artist’s recent reading of Charles Baudelaire and in particular his masterwork, Les Fleurs du Mal (1857). Les Fleurs du Mal (translated as Flowers of Evil) was Baudelaire’s first and best known volume of poems. He was successfully prosecuted for offending public morals based on its themes of sex, death, lesbianism, and corruption. As an exile, an observer, and a Romantic materialist, Baudelaire is a kindred spirit to Schnitger whose work derives aesthetically from the cacophony and detritus of modern urban life.

Thanks

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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.

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