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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
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Exhibition:
In Practice: Material Deviance

Dates:
January 29–March 27, 2017

Opening Event:
Saturday, January 28, 2017
6pm - 8pm

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IN PRACTICE: MATERIAL DEVIANCE

2016-17 IN PRACTICE PROGRAM FEATURES NEW COMMISSIONED WORKS BY LAUREN BAKST & YURI MASNYJ, OLIVIA BOOTH, KIM BRANDT, CRYSTAL Z CAMPBELL, DANIELLE DEAN, ILANA HARRIS-BABOU, JESSE HARROD, CANDICE LIN AND PATRICK STAFF, VIRGINIA LEE MONTGOMERY, KATE NEWBY, BARB SMITH, MARIAN TUBBS, AND JESSICA VAUGHN

Long Island City, NY – SculptureCenter is pleased to announce *Material Deviance*, an exhibition presented through *In Practice*, SculptureCenter’s open call commissioning program for emerging artists.

Informed by encounters with the quotidian, unassuming stuff of life and its circulation, the artists included in *Material Deviance* connect material and bodily processes with social and infrastructural ones. The artists look to irregularities, glitches, gaps, residues, and altered states – either found or enacted – as a means of accessing the latent histories of materials in order to expose underlying systems of power, regulation, value, and control. While these systems inevitably shape the movement of bodies through the world (both at the level of the individual and the social), the works on view reveal the cracks where counter-movements and improvisational modes of being and perceiving are possible.

Some of the artists in the exhibition produce material dissonance by rearranging narratives, altering properties, leaving traces of actions, and otherwise making the familiar strange, while others mine the inherent deviations and fissures they find in materials, pointing to the ways that things—like bodies—manage to exceed and even disrupt the systems that attempt to contain them. Often resisting the arrival of a fixed or final state, the artists instead offer a mode of perpetual and intimate exchange that occurs when bodies and materials move alongside or in friction with one another—teasing out the circuitous, and sometimes absurd, movements found between uniformity and difference, function and non-function, control and subversion.

The exhibition features newly commissioned works by **Lauren Bakst & Yuri Masnyj, Olivia Booth, Kim Brandt, Crystal Z Campbell, Danielle Dean, Ilana Harris-Babou, Jesse Harrod, Candice Lin and Patrick Staff, Virginia Lee Montgomery, Kate Newby, Barb Smith, Marian Tubbs, and Jessica Vaughn.**

Through associative, deconstructed, or non-linear narratives that place past and present in dialogue, **Danielle Dean** and **Crystal Z Campbell** examine histories of objects and places, excavating the material and ideological structures that produce, regulate, and mediate subjects. Residues of human activity and the anatomy of SculptureCenter’s unconventional spaces serve as points of departure for **Kate Newby**’s quiet sculptural interventions that exist in various states of transition, while **Barb Smith** presses memory foam mattresses into new forms, defying the polyurethane’s capacities to erase imprints of the body while retaining permanent impressions left by the sculpture’s intimate and messy production. Through performances that incorporate objects and materials in uncanny, absurd, or non-functional ways, **Ilana Harris-Babou** and artist team **Lauren Bakst & Yuri Masnyj** subvert hierarchies of value and utility. Works assembled by **Marian Tubbs** trouble naturalized ascriptions of value through explorations of the circuitous relationships between people, ecosystems, and non-biodegradable plastics, and **Olivia Booth** melts elements like mirrors and smartphone screens to expose the optical and material results of production, trade, and regulation. **Candice Lin and Patrick Staff** release an anti-androgen-laced fog into the exhibition space that purports to temporarily alter the hormonal levels of those who pass through, emphasizing the permeability of the body’s boundaries. Across sculpture, installation, and video

Jessica Vaughn, Jesse Harrod, and Virginia Lee Montgomery take up formal and material systems of regulation, repetition, and standardization in order to explore the (often subversive) deviations, excesses, and differences found within. **Kim Brandt's** exhibition-length cyclical and accumulative performance scores swell from the individual to the collective and back, allowing an evolving ecosystem of difference to emerge from the whole.

In Practice: Material Deviance is curated by SculptureCenter's 2017 Curatorial Fellow **Alexis Wilkinson**.

The *In Practice* program offers emerging artists curatorial and financial support to create new work for exhibition at SculptureCenter. Artists are selected through a multi-stage process after submitting work through an open call. Past *In Practice* participants include: Korakrit Arunanondchai, Fia Backström, A. K. Burns, Michael DeLucia, Aleksandra Domanovic, Essex Olivares, Brendan Fernandes, Ryan Johnson, Joanna Malinowska, Justin Matherly, Virginia Overton, Rachel Rose, Xaviera Simmons, Valerie Snobeck, Agathe Snow, Josh Smith, and Erik Wysocan.

In Practice: Material Deviance Performance Schedule

Lauren Bakst & Yuri Masnyj

Temporary Walls

January 28 at 5:30pm

February 11 at 3pm

March 4 at 3pm

March 25 at 3pm

RSVP at www.sculpture-center.org

Working at the intersections of sculpture, drawing, and dance, Lauren Bakst & Yuri Masnyj have been building a shared practice since 2014. In *Temporary Walls*, a new installation and performance work made specifically for SculptureCenter's basement, Bakst and Masnyj continue their consideration of interior space as a stage. *Temporary Walls* draws on and reconfigures a lexicon of abstracted actions, objects, and language in order to dislocate assumptions of function and form.

Kim Brandt

The Volume

January 28 at 6:00pm

Daily performances at 4pm

Informed by individual and collective bodies' somatic responses to specific spaces and times, and the internal sensorial experience of a dancer as material, Kim Brandt's performance scores take on a sculptural and visual language. Brandt's exhibition-length work *The Volume* examines the intersection of body and form, and evades the conventional temporal structures that frame performance, instead operating in a mode of continued and evolving presence alongside the other works in the exhibition. The work takes on a cyclical and accumulative format over the course of SculptureCenter's weekly open hours, exploring the relationships between a component to its whole, the solo body to the ensemble, the cellular to the astronomical. Dancers will carry out daily solos that will expand into a group form on Saturdays.

Performed by Anna Adams Stark, Lydia Adler Okrent, Liz Charky, Meg Clixby, Jessica Cook, Courtney Cooke, Leslie Cuyjet, Katie Dean, Greer Dworman, Ayano Elson, Kay Ottinger, Nora Stephens and Tara Willis.

On view concurrently

Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs de Plantation Congolaise

January 29 – March 27, 2017

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.

Over the past decade, SculptureCenter has presented works by more than 700 emerging and established artists, many of whom have shown at SC early in their careers or held their first major solo presentation in New York, including: Anthea Hamilton's first solo museum show in the United States, *Lichen! Libido! Chastity!* (2015), which was nominated for the 2016 Turner Prize, and Leslie Hewitt's critically acclaimed *Collective Stance* (2016). Other notable artists who have exhibited at SculptureCenter include: Nairy Baghramian, Bill Bollinger, Monica Bonvicini, Sanford Biggers, Tom Burr, Petah Coyne, Liz Glynn, Jeppe Hein, Rashid Johnson, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Agnieszka Kurant, Jumana Manna, Rita McBride, Michael Portnoy, Ugo Rondinone, Katrín Sigurdardóttir, Michael Smith and Mike Kelley, Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, and Nancy Rubins. SculptureCenter presents an exciting series of special projects by emerging artists through In Practice, an open call program, and offers a dynamic series of public programs and events that feature artist talks, performances, film screenings, and concerts, as well as a publications.

In Practice: Material Deviance is generously supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, VIA Art Fund, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Crystal Z Campbell's installation is produced with additional support from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

SculptureCenter's major exhibition and operating support is generously provided by grants from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the Kraus Family Foundation; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the A. Woodner Fund; Jeanne Donovan Fisher; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and Director's Circle.



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