

SculptureCenter
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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
September 12, 2017

Exhibition:
Kelly Akashi: Long Exposure

Dates:
September 18 – December 18, 2017

Opening Reception:
Sunday, September 17, 2017
5:00-7:00pm

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KELLY AKASHI: LONG EXPOSURE

SCULPTURECENTER PRESENTS FIRST SOLO INSTITUTIONAL EXHIBITION BY KELLY AKASHI

Long Island City, NY – **Kelly Akashi** is a Los Angeles-based artist working in sculpture and photography, often using materials like wax, glass, bronze, light, and air to emphasize time and ephemerality. Akashi's exhibition at SculptureCenter marks her first solo institutional presentation and will include new works commissioned for the lower level galleries incorporating large and mid-scale glass forms. The exhibition also includes photograms that capture impressions of selected objects, revealing their internal structures.

Throughout Akashi's work, glass forms are often placed in combination with other objects, such as candles and lost-wax bronze casts. Akashi displays these diverse elements within specifically designed structures, creating elaborate tableaux. Her arrangements suggest abstracted narratives of use and explore relationships between different forms and materials. For her exhibition at SculptureCenter, Akashi continues her exploration into specific connections between air and fire—two elements necessary to produce her glass works—by periodically lighting wax candles within her installations, altering the appearance of the works over time. Energetic and alchemical transformations of material are central to her work: the objects comprising Akashi's sculptures are physical manifestations of the intangibility of a breath of air or a burst of flame.

“While making this exhibition I found myself considering how the work I make is obtusely indexical, and how these kinds of objects have satisfied my formerly photographic concerns regarding the document, the operator in relationship to tool and print, and representation. I am not sure that contemporary/popular photography can answer or even address these questions anymore.”

- Kelly Akashi

Kelly Akashi (born 1983 in Los Angeles; lives and works in Los Angeles) has recently presented solo exhibitions at Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles (2016); Tomorrow Gallery, New York (2015); Between Arrival & Departure, Düsseldorf (2015); Michael Jon Gallery, Miami (2015); and Chin's Push, Highland Park, CA (2013). Recent group exhibitions include *Lyric on a Battlefield*, Gladstone Gallery, New York (2017); *Dreamers Awake*, White Cube, London (2017); *Vertical Gardens*, Antenna Space, Shanghai (2017); *Los Angeles - A Fiction*, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, France (2017) and Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2016); *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2016); *Fear of a Blank Pancake*, White Flag Projects, Saint Louis (2016); and *Can't Reach Me There*, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2015). Akashi holds an MFA from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and has studied at the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste - Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main.

Kelly Akashi: Long Exposure is curated by SculptureCenter Curator **Ruba Katrib** and is accompanied by a fully-illustrated publication. *Kelly Akashi: Long Exposure* is supported by Brenda Potter, Mary Hoeveler, Mihail Lari and Scott Murray, Anthony Grant, and Susan Steinhauser and Daniel Greenberg.

About SculptureCenter

SculptureCenter leads the conversation on contemporary art by supporting artistic innovation and independent thought highlighting sculpture's specific potential to change the way we engage with the world. Positioning artists' work in larger cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts, SculptureCenter discerns and interprets emerging ideas. Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter provides an international forum that connects artists and audiences by presenting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and generating scholarship.

Over the past 18 years, SculptureCenter has presented works by nearly 750 emerging and established artists through our annual exhibition program, and today, SculptureCenter is considered one of New York's most adventurous kunsthalls. Placing importance on investment, inclusiveness, independence, transparency, and rigor, SculptureCenter has developed a strong reputation for championing under-recognized and emerging artists, many of whom have gone on to celebrated and substantial careers such as: 2016 Turner Prize nominee Anthea Hamilton, Sanford Biggers, Nairy Baghramian, Tom Burr, Liz Glynn, Rochelle Goldberg, Camille Henrot, Leslie Hewitt, Rashid Johnson, Ugo Rondinone, Katrín Sigurdardóttir, Alexandre Singh, Monika Sosnowska, Gedi Sibony, Mika Tajima, and recent Hugo Boss Prize winner Anika Yi.

As a non-collecting museum, SculptureCenter's annual exhibition program includes 1-2 commissioning programs by mid-career artists, 10-15 projects by emerging artists, and 3-6 solo and group exhibitions in addition to an exciting series of special projects by emerging artists through *In Practice*, an open call program, and *Public Process*, a public art and education initiative for high school students. SculptureCenter continuously offers a dynamic series of free public programs and events that feature artist talks, performances, film screenings, and concerts, as well as publications.

SculptureCenter's major exhibition and operating support is generously provided by grants from the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; 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; the Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and Director's Circle. Additional funding is provided by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation and contributions from many generous individuals.

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