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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
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Exhibition:
David Maljkovic and Lucy Skaer:
Scene, Hold, Ballast

Exhibition Dates:
January 15 - March 19, 2012

Opening Reception:
Sunday, January 15, 5-7pm

Gallery Hours:
Thursday – Monday, 11am-6pm

Admission:
\$5 suggested donation

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Scene, Hold, Ballast

SCULPTURECENTER PRESENTS NEW COMMISSIONS BY DAVID MALJKOVIC AND LUCY SKAER

Long Island City, NY - SculptureCenter is pleased to present *Scene, Hold, Ballast* a two person exhibition with **David Maljkovic** and **Lucy Skaer**, artists whose work shares an engagement with sculpture, film, and distinct approaches to exhibition design. *Scene, Hold, Ballast* conceived as a dialog, will feature new works by Maljkovic and Skaer commissioned through SculptureCenter's Artist in Residence program. An opening reception will take place Sunday, January 15, 2012, 5 to 7pm, both artists will be present. This exhibition is guest curated by Fionn Meade.

Lucy Skaer's installations subject the conventional classification of objects and historical references to scrutiny, shifting meaning toward the symbolic and absurd. Often working with pre-existing imagery and found forms, Skaer's sculptures, films, and works on paper emphasize repetition and variation even as they retain a gestural immediacy. The impression of an encoded proto-linguistic message arises yet full comprehension remains out of reach. Her surrogate adaptations of Constantin Brancusi's *Bird In Space* and *Newborn* sculptures, for example, use familiar forms as a decoy for exploring faltering modes of industrial production and distribution, resulting in the collapse of image and object into a shared psychological space a characteristic of much of her work. Skaer's work re-animates the power of the symbolic that lies beyond obsolescence, as in a recent 35mm film that imagines the memory of a film projector from an abandoned cinema in Leeds, England.

Film, video, and stage scenography likewise play a central role in David Maljkovic's work and his ongoing critical engagement with the legacy of modernism. Constructing future histories via diverted glimpses onto overlooked moments of past innovation, Maljkovic's sculpture, collage, painting, drawing, and architectural mis-en-scene often refer to Yugoslav socialism and the aesthetics of international modernism. Maljkovic mines a rift between the utopian aspirations of former avant-garde strategies, their frequently cataclysmic results, and the present moment. The film *Images With Their Own Shadows* (2008), for example, is set in the villa and former studio of the influential Croatian artist and architect Vjenceslav Richter (1917–2002), and combines sound clips from Richter's last interview with highly suggestive tableaux vivant of young people, open mouthed in their attempt to speak. Here, the sounds and imagery of the past irrevocably darken the present but the future is made equally contingent through embodied, participatory rehearsal.

Continued:

David Maljkovic was born in Rijeka, Croatia, in 1973, and lives in Zagreb, Croatia. After studying at the Academy of Fine Arts, Zagreb, Maljkovic participated in the artists' residency program of the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam. He has had solo exhibitions at Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Whitechapel Gallery, London, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, among other venues. He has participated in numerous international group exhibitions, including the 29th São Paulo Biennial, the 11th Istanbul Biennial, and the 5th Berlin Biennial. Maljkovic's solo exhibition at Secession, Vienna, is on view December 2, 2011 to February 5, 2012.

Lucy Skaer was born in Cambridge, England, in 1975, and lives in New York. Skaer works primarily in sculpture, painting, film, and installation works. She studied at the Glasgow School of Art and has had solo exhibitions at the Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland, and Chisenhale Gallery, London, among other venues. She has been included in numerous international exhibitions, including the 52nd Venice Biennale, the 5th Berlin Biennale, and recent group exhibitions at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, and K21 Düsseldorf, Germany. Skaer was a Turner Prize finalist in 2009.

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.

Thanks

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