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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
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Exhibition:
Nairy Baghramian: RETAINER

Exhibition Dates:
January 14-March 25, 2013

Opening Reception:
Sunday, January 13, 2013
5-7PM

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

Admission:
\$5 suggested donation

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NAIRY BAGHRAMIAN: RETAINER

SCULPTURECENTER ARTIST IN RESIDENCE COMMISSION MARKS INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
ARTIST'S FIRST NEW YORK SOLO EXHIBITION

Long Island City, NY – SculptureCenter is pleased to announce the exhibition *RETAINER* by Berlin-based artist **Nairy Baghramian**. This will be her first exhibition in the United States. Baghramian's work examines political and social systems of power and encompasses questions of context, production, and reception within contemporary art.

With the support of our Artist-in-Residence commissioning program, Baghramian has produced a new work for SculptureCenter's main exhibition space that is suggestive of a corrective prosthesis for the building. For Baghramian, exhibition spaces are conceptual structures as much as they are habitable buildings. Their historically determined design and layout become both reference and structure of the work. This new sculpture constructed from chromed struts draped with "sheets" of cast silicon, will occupy the entire main exhibition space. Partially industrially fabricated and partially handmade, the work provokes questions about the potential for sculpture and art as an aesthetic tool, but also highlights art's dependency on its own context.

Nairy Baghramian was born in Isfahan, Iran in 1971, and has lived and worked in Berlin since 1985. Baghramian's recent exhibitions include a solo show at the Vancouver Art Gallery, a two-person show with Phyllida Barlow at Serpentine Gallery in London, and solo exhibitions at Kunsthalle Basel, Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Kunstverein Aachen, and Kunstverein Nürnberg. Her work has been featured in several major international exhibitions including Sculpture Project Münster (2007), the Berlin Biennial (2008), *Illuminations* at the 54th Venice Biennial (2011), the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art (2011) and *Temporary Stedelijk 2*, Stedelijk Museum (2011). Her work is currently on view in *Olinka, o donde se crea el movimiento* at the Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City. She has upcoming projects at Muzeum Sztuki W Lodzi, Poland and MIT List Visual Arts Center. Baghramian was awarded the 2012 Hector Kunstpreis, which included an artist publication and an exhibition at the Kunsthalle Mannheim.

SculptureCenter's exhibitions and programs are generously supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts; Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc; Bloomberg LP; Bloomberg Philanthropies; the Foundation for Contemporary Arts; Goldman Sachs; A G Foundation; the Ken and Judith Joy Family Foundation; the Kraus Family Foundation; the Lambent Foundation fund of the Tides Foundation; the Joan Mitchell Foundation; the New York Community Trust; the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; the Pollock-Krasner Foundation; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the A. Woodner Fund; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and many generous individuals.

This commission and exhibition are made possible with the generous support of the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation and Lisa Schiff. Special thanks to Galerie Buchholz.

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.