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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
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Exhibition:
***Cosima von Bonin: Who's Exploiting
Who in the Deep Sea?***

Dates:
September 19, 2016–January 2,
2017

Opening Reception:
Sunday, September 18, 2016,
5–7pm

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COSIMA VON BONIN: WHO'S EXPLOITING WHO IN THE DEEP SEA?

SCULPTURECENTER PRESENTS THE INFLUENTIAL GERMAN ARTIST'S FIRST SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK CITY, EXAMINING HER FASCINATION WITH THE SEA

Long Island City, NY – *Who's Exploiting Who in the Deep Sea?**, **Cosima von Bonin's** first solo museum exhibition in New York City—on view September 19, 2016–January 2, 2017—examines the German artist's fascination with the sea. Commonly evoked in her works, but rarely made explicit, the ocean is an organizing thematic for this show that focuses on a selection of her sculptures from 2000 onwards.

Two opposing sides of the sea—a mysterious underworld with its beaches populated by sun-seeking vacationers—operate as metaphors in much of von Bonin's work. Manifested through sculptures of creatures like crabs and sharks, as well as large bikinis and lifeguard stands, the exhibition investigates this conceptual thread.

Von Bonin's cast of textile characters included in the exhibition present a host of contradictions—approachable creatures that aren't quite what they seem or behaving as we might expect. Weaving together humor with melancholy, softness with hardness, access and exclusion, von Bonin's sculptures mix with art history, popular culture, music, and craft, while engaging in feminist destabilizations. Appropriately, the deep sea—where von Bonin's crew ventures—is its own world, little known and remote for us.

Mary Messhausen, Oliver Husain, producentin, and Simone Junker will perform throughout the opening event on Sunday, September 18.

Cosima von Bonin (born 1962 in Mombasa, Kenya; lives and works in Cologne, Germany) is one of the most influential German artists of her generation and while she has exhibited extensively in Europe, her U.S. exhibitions have been limited to a survey titled *Roger & Out* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2007), and a follow up survey at the Mildred Lane Kemper Museum in St Louis titled *Character Appropriation* (2011). Other significant exhibitions have included *HIPPIES USE SIDE DOOR.* at MUMOK, Vienna (2014); *Cut! Cut! Cut!* for Museum Ludwig's *Sloth Section, Loop #04 of the Lazy Susan Series, A Rotating Exhibition 2010–2012* at Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2011); *documenta 12* in Kassel (2007); and her work was featured in *Make Your Own Life: Artists In and Out of Cologne* at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2006).

The exhibition is co-curated by SculptureCenter Curator **Ruba Katrib** and Glasgow International Director

Sarah McCrory and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated publication with a text by Katrib.

The exhibition will travel to the Oakville Galleries in Ontario, Canada in early 2017.

* Róisín Murphy, *Exploitation*: <http://www.vimeo.com/124937307>

SC Conversations: Diedrich Diederichsen

Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 7pm

German author and critic Diedrich Diederichsen has written extensively on von Bonin and will present a lecture on her diverse practice as well as the prominence and role of maritime motifs in her work.

Diederichsen is Professor for Theory, Practice, and Communication of Contemporary Art at the Institute for Art History & Cultural Studies at the Academy of Fine Art, Vienna. Recent books include *The Whole Earth: California and the Disappearance of the Outside* by Sternberg Press (co-edited with Anselm Franke) and *Utopia of Sound* (co-edited with C. Ruhm) published by the Akademie der Bildenden Künste.

ON VIEW CONCURRENTLY

Aki Sasamoto: *Delicate Cycle*, the New York-based, Japanese artist's first solo institutional exhibition, featuring a new body of work created in relation to SculptureCenter's lower level galleries. September 19, 2016–January 2, 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.

Cosima von Bonin: Who's Exploiting Who in the Deep Sea? is organized by Glasgow International and SculptureCenter, New York.

The SculptureCenter presentation is presented with generous support by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; 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; Petzel Gallery, New York; Jeanne Donovan Fisher; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and Director's Circle. Additional support is provided by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Eleanor Cayre, and the Marieluise Hessel Revocable Trust.

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