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For Immediate Release

Release Date:
August 5, 2010

Exhibition:
Lara Schnitger:
Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume

Exhibition Dates:
September 13 – November 29, 2010

Opening Reception:
Sunday, September 12, 5 – 7pm

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

Admission:
\$5 suggested donation

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LARA SCHNITGER: **TWO MASTERS AND HER VILE PERFUME**

New York – SculptureCenter is pleased to present a new project by **Lara Schnitger** titled ***Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume***, her first solo exhibition in a U.S. museum. Schnitger, a Dutch-born, Los Angeles-based artist, will create a new installation in SculptureCenter's dramatic central space that plays with themes of sensual pleasure, seduction and exile. ***Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume*** will be on view **September 13 – November 29, 2010**. An opening reception will take place **Sunday September 12th 5 – 7 pm** and is open to the public.

Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume is a highly theatrical installation featuring Schnitger's signature wood and fabric sculptures. Themes of metamorphosis, divinity, decay, and sadomasochism -- all of which have been present in Schnitger's past work -- will converge in an installation that will transform the SculptureCenter's central exhibition hall. The structure of the work is reminiscent of a medieval piazza or even a cathedral where adulation, commerce, and politics occupy the same space. The installation is populated by figurative forms that suggest demons, ghosts, businessmen, bikers as well as more abstract sculptures.

Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume puts forward a type of gothic modernity and reflects the artist's recent reading of Charles Baudelaire and in particular his masterwork, *Les Fleurs du Mal* (1857). *Les Fleurs du Mal* (translated as *Flowers of Evil*) was Baudelaire's first and best known volume of poems. He was successfully prosecuted for offending public morals based on its themes of sex, death, lesbianism, and corruption. As an exile, an observer, and a Romantic materialist, Baudelaire is a kindred spirit to Schnitger whose work derives aesthetically from the cacophony and detritus of modern urban life.

Lara Schnitger was born in Haarlem, The Netherlands, in 1969, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Schnitger primarily makes sculpture, installation, and fabric collage but has also produced video, performance and sound works. She studied at the Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten Den Haag, Netherlands (1987-91); Academie Vyvarni Umeni, Prague (1991-92); Ateliers, Amsterdam (1992-94); and Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu, Japan (1999-2000). Recent solo exhibitions have included Museum Het Domein, Sittard, NL, (2008); Magasin 3, Stockholm Konsthall, traveling to Stroom den Haag, The Hague (2005); and Chinese European Art Center, Xiamen, China (2002). Group exhibitions include 2008 Sonsbeek Sculpture Exhibition, Arnhem, NL (2008); *Eight Sculptors from Los Angeles*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2008); *Unmonumental*, New Museum, New York (2007); *USA Today: New American Art* from the Saatchi Gallery Royal Academy of Arts, London (2006); and Shanghai Biennial, China (2002).

Thanks

Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume is presented through SculptureCenter's Artist-in-Residence program. This exhibition is supported, in part, by public funds from the Netherlands Cultural Services. SculptureCenter's Artist-in-Residence program is funded in part by the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation for the Arts. Exhibition and general operating support for SculptureCenter is provided in part by contributions from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the Kraus Family Foundation; the New York State Council on the Arts, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; the Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Greenwall Foundation; The Tides Foundation, advised by the Lambent Foundation and contributions from our Board of Trustees and many generous individuals.

About SculptureCenter

Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter is a not-for-profit arts institution dedicated to experimental and innovative developments in contemporary sculpture. SculptureCenter commissions new work and presents exhibits by emerging and established, national and international artists. In 2001, SculptureCenter purchased a former trolley repair shop in Long Island City, Queens. This facility, designed by artist/designer Maya Lin, includes 6,000 square feet of interior exhibition space, offices, and outdoor exhibition space.

For additional information or images, please contact Erin Pierson at
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