



For Immediate Release

Date: 5.14.03
Exhibition: Summer Exhibitions
Dates: June 21 – August 16, 2003
Gallery Hours: Thursday – Monday, 11-6pm
Admission: Free

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Summer 2003 at SculptureCenter

The First Long Island City Blimp Derby An Event and Installation by Olav Westphalen SculptureCenter's 2003 Artist in Residence

In Practice Project Series

New York – SculptureCenter is pleased to present its summer exhibitions: ***The First Long Island City Blimp Derby***, an event and installation by Olav Westphalen, SculptureCenter's 2003 Artist-in-Residence, and the first five solo projects commissioned through ***In Practice***, an ongoing series featuring new work by artists in the early stages of their careers. These exhibitions will open with a reception on Friday, June 20th 6-9 pm.

Artist-in-Residence Olav Westphalen: *The First Long Island City Blimp Derby*

The central element of this project is an afternoon of remote-controlled blimp races on June 28th. Westphalen will design and build a blimp racetrack within SculptureCenter's multi-story space. Race day will include pre-race activities and performances as well as food and beverage concessions. Eight teams will compete for the FLICBD Trophy. After the initial race, the arena will remain on view with the sound of the initial race day replayed during exhibition hours. Each Saturday, pick-up races will occur at 2 pm allowing visitors to race the original blimps or bring their own dirigibles. ***The Derby*** pits contemporary rhetoric around art as social process against the spectacle and entertainment environments of international art festivals and biennials without subscribing to either.

Continued

IN PRACTICE PROJECTS:

Frantiska + Tim Gilman, Myra Greene, Kathleen Griffin + Leon Dewan, Dave McKenzie, Joanna Malinowska, and Alicia Renadette

In Practice is an ongoing project series designed to support the creation and exhibition of innovative work and to open up all areas of the SculptureCenter space as potential sites. The works created through this series include sculptural objects, installations, performances and artworks that operate between all of these disciplines. For example, Dave McKenzie's *Bobblehead Dave* is a bobblehead doll created in the artist's likeness and will be given away free while supplies last. Joanna Malinowska's video installation documents her performing cleaning services in exchange for philosophy lectures. Kathleen Griffin and Leon Dewan seduce viewers with their music boxes encased in giant self-resonating balls of hard candy. Myra Greene's sofa reveals her preoccupation with her hair and its symbolic importance for her in terms of her racial identity. Alicia Renadette uses dryer lint as the raw material from which she has made a carpet of oversized roses. Frantiska and Tim Gilman create an artificial landscape in their sculptural installation titled *We took a sideways glance and fell into the bottom of the season*.

About SculptureCenter

SculptureCenter, an active contributor to New York's cultural community since 1928, is a non-profit organization in New York that champions contemporary sculpture in all of its forms. SculptureCenter's mission is to engage with artists in evolving the definition of contemporary sculpture. SculptureCenter's programs identify new talent, explore the conceptual, aesthetic, and material concerns of contemporary sculpture, and encourage independent vision through solo exhibitions of mid-career and established artists. These programs include exhibitions, artist residencies, public art projects, publications, lectures and other public events intended to further the historical documentation and critical dialogue around contemporary art and sculpture in particular. In 2001, SculptureCenter purchased a former trolley repair shop in Long Island City, Queens. This newly renovated facility, designed by artist and designer Maya Lin, includes 6,000 square feet of interior exhibition space, offices, and outdoor exhibition space.

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For more information, photographs or interviews with any of the artists, please contact Michele Snyder at 718 361 1750 or msnyder@sculpture-center.org.