



a contemporary art space

SITE SANTA FE AND THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS JOIN FORCES TO CHALLENGE “REALITY” IN SUMMER OF 2012

MAY 26, 2011

SITE Santa Fe
1606 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501



SEUNG-WOO BACK RW001-001, 2004, Five prints from *Real World I*, Digital prints, 50 x 66.5 in., Courtesy of the artist

Please Note: All information is subject to change. Please confirm with the Press Office prior to publication.

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SITE Santa Fe announces its plans to collaborate with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) on a major exhibition entitled ***More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness***, scheduled to open in Santa Fe in summer 2012. After its premiere in Santa Fe, the exhibition will be presented at the MIA in 2013. In announcing this collaboration, along with plans to re-envision SITE's signature biennial exhibition, which usually would occur in Summer 2012, Phillips Director Irene Hofmann shares her new vision for the contemporary arts institution.

Hofmann elaborates:

At its inception, SITE's mission was to ignite a contemporary art community in Santa Fe through an international program of new art. Now, with SITE's acclaimed exhibition history, and midway through our second decade, SITE is poised to achieve a heightened level of visibility and impact. Through innovative partnerships and a re-imagined biennial, we will build on SITE's past successes and respond to the changes in scale, interconnectivity, economics, and audience that have reshaped the art world in the last fifteen years.

In what is a groundbreaking collaboration for these two institutions, SITE and the MIA will present ***More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness*** in summer 2012. Curated by Elizabeth Armstrong, the MIA's Curator of Contemporary Art, *More Real?* is a large-scale international exhibition that explores our shifting experience of reality today. Through diverse media and in unexpected ways, this exhibition will explore the impact and role of deception, play, memory, power, simulation, and new technologies on art and everyday life. With an international and intergenerational roster of artists, several commissioned works, new scholarship, bold technological interactivity, and an installation that will extend beyond SITE's 15,000 square feet of exhibition space, *More Real?* will be one of the largest and most ambitious exhibitions presented at SITE in recent history.



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Artists in the exhibition include **Ai Weiwei, Leandro Erlich, Cao Fei, John Gerrard, Pierre Huyghe, An-My Le, Joel Lederer, Sharon Lockhart, Feng Mengbo, Raqs Media Collective, Seung Woo Back, Eve Sussman, and David Wilson**, among others.

Pairing the MIA—known for its collections spanning 5,000 years and representing diverse cultures across all continents—with SITE Santa Fe's experimental contemporary art program, will infuse each museum with new perspectives. By joining forces to mount *More Real?*, two very different institutional voices will merge to present a hybrid point of view while sharing resources, playing to each other's strengths, and sparking greater creative innovation. This project combines SITE's contemporary art platform and history of working with living artists to facilitate their vision with the MIA's institutional history, scholarship, infrastructure, and commitment to presenting contemporary art within an encyclopedic museum.

This collaborative project represents the first of many institutional partnerships that SITE will pursue to enhance the impact and reach of its leading-edge contemporary art programming.

Re-defining the Biennial

The decision to present *More Real?* next summer is part of a process of re-envisioning SITE's signature Biennial. Opened in 1995 to present what was then the only international biennial in the United States, SITE Santa Fe was born at a time when there were only a handful of biennials in the world. Now, hundreds exist, most of which are supported by municipal governments to drive economic development, promote tourism, and raise a city's cultural profile. SITE has been examining its Biennial in the worldwide context, as well as in relationship to its own short, yet significant history.

We are in the midst of a process of considering our Biennial's essential nature, reevaluating its claims, and reaffirming its singularity. In the context of the globalization and the heightened visibility of contemporary art, we aim to examine a world of art and points of view that are not widely shown and expressed within the international biennial scene. I look forward to announcing our new plans for SITE's Biennial in the months ahead, said Hofmann.

Acknowledging the changing landscape of the contemporary art world, and the proliferation of biennial exhibitions in the last decade, SITE is actively engaged in exploring a new model for its Biennial, and anticipates launching a newly structured international Biennial exhibition for the 2013/14 season. Through a new biennial and bold collaborative exhibitions like *More Real?*, SITE seeks to recommit its place at the vanguard of contemporary art, serving as a vital nexus for contemporary art discourse.



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SITE Santa Fe | Advance Exhibition Calendar 2011-2012

Agitated Histories

October 22, 2011 - January 15, 2012

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Agitated Histories brings together an international and intergenerational group of artists whose works in a range of media create a dialogue with history. For some of the artists in this exhibition, history is a subject to be challenged and even re-written, while for others it is a source of inspiration and creative energy. The works in ***Agitated Histories*** are organized around three central themes: **The Archive**—works that developed in response to the study of a specific historic archive; **The Re-creation**—works that feature a re-staging of historic events; and **The Persona**—works that interrogate the image, impact, and legacy of iconic historic figures.

This exhibition includes the work of **Michael Cataldi** (New York), **Sam Durant** (Los Angeles), **Deborah Grant** (New York), **Rodney McMillian** (Los Angeles), **Lorraine O'Grady** (New York), **Yoshua Okon** (Mexico City), **Geof Oppenheimer** (Chicago), and **Mark Tribe** (New York and Providence), among others.

AGITATED HISTORIES

Agitated Histories was organized by Irene Hofmann and presented at the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore in 2011, and will appear in an expanded form in collaboration with Janet Dees, Assistant Curator, at SITE Santa Fe.



MARK TRIBE *The Liberation of Our People: Angela Davis 1969/2008* in Times Square, 2008. Photo by Sam Horine.



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Time-Lapse February 18 – May 20, 2012

Time-Lapse presents large-scale installations that track the passage of time by changing throughout the run of the exhibition. With hourly, daily, and weekly alterations to the works in the show, no two days of *Time-Lapse* will be the same.



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MARY TEMPLE (L) April, 2011, from the *Currency* series, 2007-present, 30 pages, each 16.5 x 13 in. (R) 2.23.11 (detail) from the *Currency* series, 2007-present, 16.5 x 13 inches, Hand-drawn portraits printed in archival ink on Hahnemuhle Museum Rag, Courtesy artist and Mixed Greens

One of the works to be featured in *Time-Lapse* is Mary Temple's *Currency*, a drawing project the artist began on September 24, 2007 and has continued every day since. Each day Temple creates a new drawing from images and headlines from The New York Times. Each new drawing is a portrait of a political figure depicted in the news, accompanied by the associated headline. During the run of *Time-Lapse*, Temple will scan her daily drawings and send a digital image to SITE where the image will be printed out and added to a growing grid of drawings on the gallery walls.

Time-Lapse is co-curated by Irene Hofmann, Phillips Director and Chief Curator, and Janet Dees, Assistant Curator.

More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness July 7 – November 2012

More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness presents work by some of today's most accomplished and promising international artists who are examining our shifting experience of reality. Over the past century, during a period of unprecedented technological change and global social upheaval, once agreed-upon beliefs, or "truths," have been cast into doubt—changing and shaping our understanding and experience of reality. Through diverse media and in unexpected ways, this exhibition explores the impact and role of deception, play, memory, power, simulation, and new technologies on art and everyday life.



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The exhibition proposes that we now live in an “Age of Truthiness,” a time when our understanding of the truth is no longer bound to anything tangible, provable, or factual. In 2005, Stephen Colbert, comedian and host of the popular satirical news program, “The Colbert Report,” coined the word “truthiness” and brought it to the forefront of the English lexicon. Defined by the American Dialect Society as “the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true,” the notion of “truthiness” quickly caught hold and it became Merriam-Webster’s word of the year in 2006. By presenting art that reveals, confronts, and questions the nature of reality in an age when the relationships between truth and fiction have never been less definitive, *More Real* explores our constantly changing shared sense of what is real.

Providing a historical and cultural context for these significant developments, the exhibition will present paintings, sculpture, photography, film, and installations, along with works that operate within the virtual worlds of digital media, Second Life, and other augmented realities. From the perspectives of contemporary artists and thinkers—including Ai Weiwei, Cao Fei, John Gerrard, Pierre Huyghe, An-My Le, Joel Lederer, Sharon Lockhart, Feng Mengbo, Raqs Media Collective, Seung Woo Back, Eve Sussman, and David Wilson, among others—this exhibition and its accompanying publication examine the 21st century zeitgeist, which questions truth, reality, meaning, and permanence.

The art on view in *More Real?* falls into three main categories:

Deception and Play: from trompe l’oeil to the authentic fake: Art that uses deception and play to create illusions of reality, revealing how our understanding of authenticity shapes meaning;

Status of Fact: unreliable narrators, parafiction, and truthiness: The pervasiveness in art and culture of the slippage between fact and fiction, exposing social and political realities and their systems of power;

Reshaping the Real: cinema, memory, and the virtual (reality): Art that documents physical and virtual worlds in film, video, and digital media, interrogating the process by which we continually (re)construct our notion of reality.

More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness is presented by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and SITE Santa Fe. *More Real?* is curated by Elizabeth Armstrong, Curator of Contemporary Art, Center for Alternative Museum Practice (CAMP), Minneapolis Institute of Arts.



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ABOUT THE CURATOR OF *MORE REAL?*

Elizabeth Armstrong joined the staff at the MIA in 2008 as Curator of Contemporary Art. Recognized for her long record of innovative exhibitions and publications, Armstrong is a leader in shaping the MIA's 21st century identity as an institution of dynamism and exchange. In 2009, she established the MIA's Center for Alternative Museum Practice (CAMP), in addition to directing the contemporary art program, engaging contemporary art and artists in re-animating galleries and historic art objects.

Prior to her MIA post, she served as Deputy Director for Programs and Chief Curator at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach, California. She also worked as a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (1996-2000) and the Walker Art Center (1983-1996).

In 2007, Armstrong was one of ten U.S. curators selected to participate in the inaugural year of the Center for Curatorial Leadership, which prepares top curators for positions in museum leadership. She has organized over 30 exhibitions, many with major catalogues and tours, including: *Jasper Johns: Printed Symbols*, 1990; *In the Spirit of Fluxus*, 1993; *Peter Fischli and David Weiss: In a Restless World*, 1996; *Ultrabaroque: Aspects of Post-Latin American Art*, 2000; *Girls' Night Out*, 2003; California Biennial, 2002-2006; *Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury*, 2007; and *Mary Heilmann Retrospective*, 2007. Armstrong earned an M.A. in the History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and holds a B.A. in American Studies from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Summer 2011 Exhibitions

Suzanne Bocanegra: I Write The Songs
Pae White: Material Mutters
June 18-September 18, 2011

Support

SITE's exhibitions and programs are generously funded by the Board of Directors as well as by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Art & Culture series is made possible by a generous endowment from the Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

About SITE

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Thursday and Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday, 10 am – 7 pm; Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm; closed Monday – Wednesday. The Museum is open on Wednesdays from June through August. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.

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