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MAK CENTER PRESENTS "FINAL PROJECTS" EXHIBITION FOR GROUP XXVII OF INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS

(West Hollywood, February 20, 2009) As part of its mission to facilitate international exchange, The MAK Center for Art & Architecture hosts early-career artists and architects for six-month live/work residencies in Los Angeles. As their residencies draw to a close, Group XXVII will present a Final Projects exhibition at the Schindler House. Featuring the work of artists Simon Fujiwara and the team Hanakam & Schuller, and architects Alan Cicmak and the team Schinegger/Rutzinger, the exhibition will be on view March 14–15, 2009. A free public reception will be held Friday, March 13 from 7:00–9:00 p.m., with a performance from Simon Fujiwara at 8:00 p.m.

German-born artist Markus Hanakam and Austrian artist Roswitha Schuller work as a team, Hanakam & Schuller. Their interest is in the re-interpretation of traditional sculpture, which they expand by creating a certain setting (*a mise en scène*) or atmosphere. In Los Angeles, they have produced a videowork that focuses on the relation between architecture and narration.

Hanakam & Schuller have created a film that explores the genre of *road movie*, which they interpret as bringing together the architectural structures, atmosphere of a place, and pop-cultural surfaces of a city. They have extracted passages from screenplays to lend poetic qualities to their new story. The film combines real video with animated sequences employing virtual camera movements. The project is a comment on the process of film production and the conventions in narrative structures that imbue classic road movies.

Simon Fujiwara's work brings together architectural history, taboo, sexuality and identity politics through short stories, performances and installations. In a site-specific installation and performance, *Impersonator*, Fujiwara brings two unlikely stories together—the history of the Schindler house and the biography of Arnold Schwarzenegger, narrated through a guided tour performed in Schindler's former Studio.



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Both Austrian émigrés in Los Angeles, each constructed a public persona through building—Schindler through house building, Schwarzenegger through bodybuilding. Performed by actor Lyndall Grant, the monologue-guide describes a visit by Schwarzenegger to the house in 1980, at a point when he was deciding between embarking on a career in acting and a career in architecture. Through this visit, the tale reveals ever more uncanny connections between the two Austrians, presenting a story of male domination, the struggle for power and the construction of physical icons. Despite the absurd overtones of the work, the figures highlight two phenomena that have come to define Los Angeles in the 20th Century: Modern Architecture and Fitness.

Alan Cicmak, a German artist, examines filmic space and its possibilities for representation in real space. Inspired by a conversation with Norman Klein, he has researched a site called Surfridge, a no-man's land at the western border of Los Angeles International Airport, the result of a 1960s airport expansion.

Cicmak is interested in the forgotten storylines and destinies of this once-thriving community. For this exhibition, he has created a "filmic sculpture," which references themes from modernist architecture and landscapes. His work combines elements fundamental to filmic cadrage, montage and narration. Cicmak will project a film onto the filmic sculpture, composed of historic footage and recent video shot by the artist. He will also present various research materials that lead to the realization of the project.

Kristina Schinegger and Stefan Rutzinger's Final Project is part of their ongoing investigation into the application of aggregation processes to architecture. Unlike modularity, which tries to find efficient ways of breaking up larger structures into manageable parts, aggregations are based on a molecular element and its inherent accumulation possibilities, often leading to unforeseen results. Based on simple geometrical rules, aggregations produce complex spatial configuration, peculiarities and even "failures". Schinegger and Rutzinger are especially interested in the aggregation processes of anorganic materials such as snow, dust or the growth of corals and how to apply their aggregation logics to the design process on a "molecular" level through scripting. The aggregation processes of these "low" materials produce masses and densities instead of surfaces. The architects will display the outcomes of their research in 3-D plotted models and drawings, as well as an object that applies their research in an architectural context.

The MAK Center for Art & Architecture is located at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular admission is \$7/\$17 with the guide book, *Schindler By MAK*; students and seniors, \$6/\$16 with book; free for Friends of the Schindler House and on Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m. Parking is available at the public structure at the northeast corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard. For further information, the public may contact www.MAKcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

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