

MAK

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**MAK CENTER FOR ART & ARCHITECTURE PRESENTS
ANDREA FRASER, SIMON LEUNG & LINCOLN TOBIER
IN PANEL DISCUSSION**

**"Reframing Critical Practices of New York Artists in the Early Nineties" – Saturday,
February 28, 4 p.m.**

(West Hollywood, February 10, 2009) Andrea Fraser, Simon Leung and Lincoln Tobier first gained recognition in New York in the late 1980s/early 1990s, working in art practices which simultaneously addressed the post-conceptual legacy, critical theory and contemporary social and political life. On Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 4 p.m. at the MAK Center for Art & Architecture, they will consider this period, challenging the dominant narratives often used to describe an especially dynamic time in the art world. Liz Kotz will moderate the panel.

Among the many labels and issues that absorbed New York artists in the early 1990s were "institutional critique," site specificity, appropriation, performance, psychoanalysis, deconstruction, New Democracy, post-colonialist and queer theories, the rise of the political Right, the politics of difference, the Gulf War and AIDS. As this period is now quickly becoming historicized, two narratives dominate its description: "identity politics," associated with the inclusion of "other" voices in the public sphere; and "relational aesthetics," which frames the non-object-oriented practices of the '90s around an ethos of conviviality.

While in the past the work of Fraser, Leung and Tobier have been framed under either or both of these headings, the panel will suggest that these are insufficient readings of a critical generation of artists (which also includes, among others, Renée Green, Christian Philipp Müller, and Gregg Bordowitz), and that much more nuanced and rigorous attention is needed to gain a meaningful understanding of work from this time.

Associated with the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, American Fine Arts Co. and Pat Hearn Gallery, this group of artists actively re-thought the contingencies and conditions of art exhibitions, while proposing models that addressed both aesthetic and political considerations in their formal make-up and structural procedures. Their works gained recognition for their sophistication and rigor, and have become influential in critical art discourses, but they were also difficult to analyze synthetically except through pre-existing art historical models, and in some cases, have remained relatively obscure in the commercial art world. While in dialogue with each

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other for many years, this will be the first public opportunity to engage in discussion with Fraser, Leung and Tobier, who now make their primary residences in Los Angeles.

Based at R.M. Schindler's landmark Schindler House, the MAK Center for Art and Architecture focuses on new and prospective tendencies in art and architecture. Acting as a "think tank," the MAK Center encourages exploration of experimental, practical and theoretical trajectories through exhibitions, lectures, performances, screenings, and publications. Currently on display are film and video installations by Austrian artist Dorit Margreiter, the third installment of *Locus Remix*. *Three Contemporary Positions*, an exhibition which has earlier featured works by Katie Grinnan and Ismail Farouk.

Admission to the February 28 panel is free with MAK Center admission. The MAK Center 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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