



CENTER

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**MAK CENTER WELCOMES 21ST GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL
ARTISTS & ARCHITECTS IN RESIDENCE**

(West Hollywood, November 2005) As an institution founded through international cooperation, the MAK Center for Art & Architecture remains committed to promoting connections between the art and design worlds of Los Angeles and creative communities worldwide. Awarded competitively, the MAK Center Artists & Architects in Residence program offers residents a chance to enrich their work through a six-month stay in Los Angeles, while bringing a variety of international viewpoints to interact with the local scene.

Living and working in the R.M. Schindler-designed Mackey Apartments in the mid-Wilshire district, MAK Center residents have staged exhibitions, salons, concerts, "happenings" and innumerable events over the past ten years. Engaging the landscape and culture of southern California and the western U.S., residents' work is always fresh and lively. The MAK Center welcomes its newest group of residents who promise to continue these innovative traditions.

David Moises

David Moises is an artist currently living in Vienna. He studied in Linz, Austria and Berlin and has exhibited throughout Austria and Germany. His work manipulates the utopian echoes of the technical achievements of his youth by referencing "adult toy" culture. An inventor, he explores the *Popular Mechanics* of sculpture, creating vehicles and new household tools.

In his project, *Kustom Kollaboration*, Moises aims to contact George Barris, famed for his customized film and television vehicles, including the first Batmobile, *The Munsters* car and the DeLorean/time-machine in *Back to the Future*. With this contact and by



applying his own specialized knowledge of exotic car finishes, the artist will realize a vehicle-based project, accompanied by photo and video documentation.

Sonia Leimer

Sonia Leimer is an architect, artist and writer who was born in Italy and currently lives in Vienna, where she received her diploma at the Academy of Fine Art in 2004. Leimer has participated in several architectural competitions with projects such as *Rabin Square*, which earned first prize, and *Maschine* with Joost Meuwissen, Roland Ritter and Mike Perfahl. She hosts a radio broadcast entitled *Image and the City* in Vienna.

Leimer intends to enact the fictional sale of the Schindler House. As a faux real estate agent, she will conduct tours for potential owners. She will develop a billboard to explore the way residential imagery is used in advertising. Leimer will research the history of the house, both social and architectural, to uncover its value for contemporary Los Angeles and will extend its portrayal beyond the frequent, idealistic view of its garden on a sunny day. What other stories are held in the house?

Elena Kovylna

Performance artist Elena Kovylna was born in Moscow, Russia. She studied at the Art Academy in Moscow; the Art and Media school in Zurich; the Center for Modern Art, Moscow; and with Rebecca Horn at the University of Fine Arts Berlin (UdK Berlin). She has created performances regularly since 1997 and has taken part in numerous exhibitions, including at the MAK, Vienna, Artforum Berlin, XL-Project, Moscow, the Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, and the Prague Biennale.

Internationally, Los Angeles is chiefly known for Hollywood, which provides utopias and myths to the rest of the world. Of particular interest to Kovylna is Hollywood's unrealistic portrayal of Russians: to be a Russian male means you are not human, and to be a Russian female means you are a seductress. Kovylna will explore these stereotypes with a Russian-American cinema project. She will engage the image clichés of Hollywood actors and create a laboratory for working with people who are interested in becoming movie stars, documenting the production process through photography and video.

David Emmer, Benjamin Haupt and Robert Huebser (Gruppo Senza)

Founded in Berlin in 2004, *Gruppo Senza* is a think tank that investigates urbanism, architecture, and contemporary society, with a special focus on the underlying rules that structure the 3-dimensional framework of everyday life. *Gruppo Senza* in L.A. are: David Emmer, Benjamin Haupt and Robert Huebser. Haupt and Huebser are currently students of architecture at the Kunsthochschule Berlin. Emmer graduated in 2005 with an Architecture degree from the Kunsthochschule Berlin and works for RAD (Research, Architecture, Design) in Hong Kong.

Their project, *(Re-) Constructing Babylon*, investigates architecture in Los Angeles which shelters indestructible human desires—vital for human society to function though often

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seen as detrimental—including gambling, prostitution and alcohol. Sinful or not, these Babylonian activities compose a play on the stage of the everyday and give birth to architectural beasts, that even now, after all the revelations of the past century, remain concealed within today's cities. What would happen if these programmed spaces suddenly gained the status of churches? And what would a "reconstructed Babylon" - one for the 21st century - actually look like?

The residents are available for studio visits, presentations and other programming during the course of their stay. The MAK Center Residents will publicly present their Final Projects in March 2006.

The jury for the 2005-2006 MAK Center Artists and Architects in Residence program was comprised of Hernan Diaz Alonso, Patrick Charpenel, Magdalena Jetelová, Peter Noever, and Claudia Oetker.

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. Admission with purchase of the guide book *Schindler by MAK*: \$17/\$16 students and seniors; admission only: \$7/\$6 for students and seniors; children under 12 are FREE. Admission is FREE on Friday afternoons from 4pm - 6pm, September 10 (Schindler's birthday) and December 1 (A Day Without Art). Admission is always FREE for *Friends of the Schindler House*. Parking is available at the public structure at the northeast corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard.

For further information on MAK Center programs, the public may visit www.MAKcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

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