



**CENTER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAK CENTER WELCOMES 28<sup>TH</sup> GROUP OF RESIDENTS**

**Program Brings International Artists & Architects to L.A.**

(West Hollywood, April 27, 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. Awarded competitively, the MAK Center residencies are based at the R.M. Schindler-designed Mackey Apartments in the mid-Wilshire district. The MAK Center Artists and Architects in Residence Group XXVIII has recently arrived in Los Angeles and includes artists Rainer Prohaska, Bara, the team of Wouter Osterholt and Elke Uitentuis, and architects Anna Kovacs and Bernhard Wolf. The residents will present a Final Projects exhibition of their work at the Schindler House in September 2009.

The German painter and sculptor Bara plans to realize an outdoor sculpture relating to the infamous St. Francis Dam collapse of 1928. To be located at the ruins of the dam in the Santa Clarita Valley, Bara's sculpture will commemorate the disaster which killed more than 400 people and ended the career of Los Angeles water czar, William Mulholland. Bara's sculpture will employ the same concrete and steel materials as the dam, with movable concrete steles supporting science-fiction-like transmitter and receiver poles. Standing as a metaphor for the archaic forces of nature and human failure, Bara's temporary memorial will be photographed and documented on video and presented at the Schindler House, along with a series of paintings based on traditional Mexican and American Halloween masks.

Wouter Osterholt and Elke Uitentuis are artist collaborators based in Warns, the Netherlands. Their work utilizes a context-specific approach, investigating the relationship between people and their surroundings. Typically, projects evolve from their settings and may grow to be presented as exhibitions, models, workshops and public forums. In Los Angeles, they plan to research democratic platforms, such as neighborhood councils, that give communities a voice in the design process of public spaces. They will investigate the varying motives of people involved in neighborhood initiatives, the circumstances that provoke activism and whether these motivations are reflected in final proposals.

Austrian architects Anna Kovacs and Bernhard Wolf work as the team, "Treibstoff Architektur." They are especially interested in the relationship of architecture and landscape in the urban setting. Kovacs and Wolf plan to investigate the role of gas stations in Los Angeles community

MAK

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life, and why they have been so little utilized as opportunities for architectural expression and social gathering. Noting that Los Angeles seems designed for people moving at 30 miles per hour and that the preponderance of single family homes discourages communal thinking, they propose to match gas stations with additional functions, including leisure activities, to create a new type of public space.

Rainer Prohaska, an Austrian artist, will bring his ongoing project, "Restaurant Transformable," to the Schindler House. In a format that combines performance, architectural and exhibition elements, Prohaska approaches cooking as an authentic form of fine and performing art. It is the artist's practice to create his kitchen in a temporary architectural installation, augmented by animations or projections of recipes and an auditory environment created by recording the sounds of the cooking process. During the interactive performance, audience members cook under the supervision of the artist. Subsequently, an exhibition is created with the artifacts of the performance. For the Final Projects exhibition, Prohaska plans to collaborate with Kovacs and Wolf, integrating his restaurant into their plans for a gas station.

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](http://www.MAKcenter.org) or call (323) 651-1510.

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