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MAK CENTER WELCOMES 27TH GROUP OF RESIDENTS

Program Brings International Artists & Architects to L.A.

(West Hollywood, October 30, 2008) 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 XXVII has recently arrived in Los Angeles and includes artists Simon Fujiwara and the team Hanakam & Schuller, and architects Alan Cicmak and the team Schinegger/Rutzinger. The residents will present a Final Projects exhibition of their work in May 2009.

With degrees in both Fine Art and Architecture, art resident Simon Fujiwara, originally from England and a resident of Berlin, produces fiction writing, installations and performances that reference diverse fields of inquiry. For his residency, he plans to write and produce a short comedy play centered on the imagined conversation among five members of the avant-garde who meet at one of R.M. Schindler's famous gatherings. With the objective of exploring the idea of "performative architecture," the script will be a collage of stories and anecdotes from the many famous visitors to the Schindler House. Fujiwara plans to focus on the ability of physical comedy to illuminate absurd aspects of the architect's condition.

Austrian architects Kristina Schinegger and Stefan Rutzinger, partnered as Schinegger/Rutzinger, will explore how Bataille's concept of "formlessness"—referring to "low" materials such as mud, dust, hair or liquids such as saliva—challenges our understanding of architecture. Whereas architecture is equated with geometry, content and function, the "formless" resists these categories. Low materials, such as felt or liquids, contain elaborate systems of self-organization, which the architects will investigate and translate into spatial



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structures that create gradient volumes of densities, rather than closed forms. Schinegger/Rutzinger will also explore the formlessness of ephemeral elements such as wind, humidity and sound. They will create an installation as their Final Project.

German-born artist Markus Hanakam and Austrian artist Roswitha Schuller work as a team, Hanakam & Schuller. Using Schindler's architecture as the starting point, they plan to create a film that will explore 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 will extract passages from screenplays and literary texts to lend poetic qualities to their new story. The film will combine real video with animated sequences employing virtual camera movements. The project will comment on the process of film production and the conventions in narrative structures that imbue classic road movies.

Alan Cimák, an Austrian architect, examines filmic space and its possibilities for representation in real space. He works by abstracting specific filmic parameters from their original structures and applying them in new ways. Inspired by a conversation with Norman Klein, he plans to examine 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. Cimák is interested in the forgotten storylines and destinies of this once-thriving community. Following archival and site research, he plans to enter this "discharged" location and fill it with filmic space and time.

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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