

ELECTRA

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Electra presents a new series of commissions

OFFER & EXCHANGE:

SITES OF NEGOTIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ART

Offer & Exchange: Sites of Negotiation in Contemporary Art curated by Daniel McClean and Lisa Rosendahl is a series of site-specific commissions exploring the use of rules, instructions, contracts and performance in the contexts of contemporary art and the law. The project brings together individually commissioned art works appearing across a variety of exhibition sites over the next eighteen months, culminating in a publication which documents and contextualises the commissions (to be published by Ridinghouse, London in 2009).

Artists using legal contracts as artistic frameworks – including **Maria Eichhorn, Jonathan Monk, Santiago Sierra, Superflex** and **Carey Young** – have been invited to respond to one of the following key categories of 'site' where art is made visible by being exhibited, publicized, sold or collected:

- i. the commercial gallery
- ii. the corporate collection
- iii. the art magazine
- iv. the public institution
- v. the private collection
- vi. the auction house
- vii. the art fair

In this context, 'site' is approached as a set of relations governing processes of negotiation. Engaging with the legacies of Conceptual art and Institutional Critique, each resulting commission reflects upon the specific aesthetic, social, economic and legal relations that govern the production and dissemination of art in these different sites of mediation.

The commissions use contracts and the specificity of legal language to express boundaries and construct frameworks for action, as well as to emphasize the existence of conflict, negotiation and value exchange within artistic production and consumption. In different ways, each commission articulates and appropriates the relationships between artist, artwork, viewer and exhibition site as a way of exploring the structures that condition them.

The project brings together a variety of exhibition sites with historically different functions in relation to the production and consumption of art within one conceptual framework as a way of engaging with the increasing dissolution of the boundaries between public and private and between commercial and 'not for profit' structures, in the contemporary art landscape.

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First commission:

Mutual Release, by **Carey Young** is a body of new work exploring contractual relationships in the context of the commercial gallery. Consisting of new print, text and video works, the exhibition develops the artist's interest in legal structures, language and the performative. Working closely with a legal team specialising in media and intellectual property, Young has created a series of new works inviting the viewer to enter into contractual relationships based on viewing, owning and collecting art.

Site: Thomas Dane Project Space, 14 Mason's Yard, London SW1
20 November – 15 December 2008

Second commission:

A new work by **Santiago Sierra** at the Insurance Group Hiscox, as part of their corporate collection, commencing January 2009.

Please see www.electra-productions.com for details of the forthcoming commissions in the series.

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ELECTRA is a UK-based contemporary art agency specialising in curating, commissioning and producing ambitious cross-disciplinary projects by artists working across sound, moving image, performance and the visual arts. Projects produced and curated by ELECTRA to date include the performance programme 'Art Now Live' (2007, Tate Britain); 'The Wire 25' season of performances and events to mark The Wire Magazine's 25th anniversary (2007, London); group exhibition 'Her Noise' (2005, South London Gallery; touring 2006 - present); newly commissioned performance and film production 'Perfect Partner' by Kim Gordon, Tony Oursler and Phil Morrison's (2005, The Barbican Centre and 6 venues across the UK and Europe); Christian Marclay's performance 'Sounds Of Christmas' (2004, Tate Modern). ELECTRA is funded by Arts Council England.

Daniel McClean is a curator and practising lawyer specialising in art law, media and intellectual property law at Withers LLP (London and New York).

Lisa Rosendahl is a curator and writer, and the Director of the Baltic Art Center – a production and residence centre for Nordic and international artists in Visby, Sweden.