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LIVELY SCULPTURAL WORKS EXPLORE TRANSFORMATION OF MATTER

***PARTICLE THEORY*, FEATURING VANGUARD WORKS BY THREE SCULPTURE ARTISTS, OPENS THIS SPRING AT WEXNER CENTER GALLERIES AT THE BELMONT BUILDING**

Columbus—The dynamic sculpture exhibition ***Particle Theory: Lucky DeBellevue, Roger Hiorns, and Shirley Tse***, featuring innovative contemporary sculpture in a variety of materials, is on view **May 22–August 15, 2004** in the **Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building**. The seven works in *Particle Theory*—fabricated from such materials as ceramic, pipe cleaners, foam, blue crystals, and more—explore the way matter is transformed and how it applies to contemporary sculptural practice. Not only do the pieces in the show evoke the literal transformation of matter (liquid to solid, liquid to gas, gas to liquid), they also point to the philosophical and aesthetic implications of transformation.

This exhibition was organized by Claudine Isé, associate curator of exhibitions at the Wexner Center. “*Particle Theory* marks Claudine’s debut at the Wexner Center, and it reflects her imaginative and enterprising engagement with current artistic practices and emerging artists,” says Helen Molesworth, the Wexner Center’s chief curator of exhibitions.

Particle Theory will be on view concurrently with *Visions from America: Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art, 1940–2001*.

THE ARTISTS AND THE WORK

Densely weaving together a multitude of pipe cleaners, New York City-based artist **Lucky DeBellevue** creates weblike constructions that rely on the growth and movement principles of the rhizome: a non-hierarchical, non-linear system with no beginning or end point. DeBellevue’s sculptures may bring to mind a number of rhizomatic forms found in nature such as spider webs or beehives; they also mimic the growth and movement of viruses. *Particle Theory* will include two recent works by DeBellevue, each of which uses pipe cleaners to engage with a corner of the exhibition space; one will be a new work fabricated for this exhibition.

news release

London-based artist **Roger Hiorns** utilizes substances that waver between the material and the immaterial—such as fire, foam, and perfume—in his sculptures. His installation in the Wexner Center’s downtown galleries will feature ceramic vessels that, when filled with liquid and activated, generate thick columns of foam that rise, topple, and eventually evaporate. Also by Hiorns in this show are thistles dipped in a bath of copper sulfate (also known as Bluestone). Encrusted in brilliant blue crystals, the thistles take on a magical, otherworldly appearance.

Los Angeles-based artist **Shirley Tse** has long concerned herself with the nature of plastic as essentially mutable substance, able to take on an infinite number of forms. For the pieces in this show, Tse manipulates pre-existing forms by hand-carving, cutting, and sculpting blocks of extruded polystyrene, or Styrofoam™, commonly used to hold packaged technology products in place during shipping. The idea that “negative space” is somehow empty or insubstantial is completely overturned by these cast-foam support systems. Her playful 2003 piece *Brazil* is made from yellow boogie boards and plastic tubing.

THE CURATOR

Claudine Isé has been associate curator of exhibitions at the Wexner Center since February 2004; *Particle Theory* marks her first project for the Wexner Center. Isé had been assistant curator of the UCLA Hammer Museum for the past five years, where she curated and co-curated solo and group shows. Isé, who has also been an art critic for the *Los Angeles Times*, holds a Ph.D. in Film Literature and Culture from the University of Southern California.

CALENDAR INFORMATION for *PARTICLE THEORY*

Description: *Particle Theory* is an exhibition of sculptural work by three contemporary artists exploring the transformation of matter. On view at the Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building concurrently with *Visions from America: Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art, 1940–2001*. Organized by the Wexner Center.

Dates: May 22–August 15, 2004.

Location: Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building, at Spring St. and Neil Ave. in the Arena District in downtown Columbus (330 W. Spring St.). Entrance off Cozzins Street.

Hours: 11 am–6 pm Tuesday–Wednesday; 11 am–9 pm Thursday–Friday; noon–6 pm Saturday–Sunday. Closed Mondays and holidays. Open regular hours on July 4.

Gallery admission: Free.

Parking: Free lots just across Cozzins Street.

Opening party: Saturday, May 22 / 6–9 pm / Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building.

Walk-In Tours: Thursdays at 6 pm & Sundays at 1 pm beginning June 3 running through June 27.

Group Tours: Group Tours can be scheduled at the Belmont Building for any time during our hours of operation. Please make reservations for all group tours at least three weeks in advance. Call the education department at 614.292-6493.

Public information: 614 292-3535 or www.wexarts.org.

Digital images available upon request; call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Particle Theory: Lucky DeBellevue, Roger Hiorns, and Shirley Tse was organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts.

The exhibition is presented by the Wexner Center with support the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

WEXNER CENTER GALLERIES AT THE BELMONT BUILDING and the WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Wexner Center exhibitions will be held at the **Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building** all season while the galleries at the Wexner Center's Ohio State location are undergoing renovation. Located next to the Arena District in downtown Columbus, The Belmont Building is the former home of Belmont Casket, considered "the Cadillac of Caskets," which moved to Columbus in 1916. The building, constructed in 1885, sits near the intersection of Spring Street and Neil Avenue, with an entrance located off Cozzins Street. The four-story building, which currently houses offices in addition to the Wexner Center Galleries, is positioned in a high-growth area, just between the booming Arena District and the historically industrial River District. Caroline's Deli on the ground floor of The Belmont Building is open to the public Monday–Friday, 7:30 am–4 pm.

The **Wexner Center for the Arts** is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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