

## **Michael Sailstorfer: *Every piece is a new problem***

**March 29 – September 14, 2014**

German artist Michael Sailstorfer challenges longstanding conventions of sculpture by manipulating nature and machinery into uncomfortable but illuminating hybrids. Inspired by the friction of opposites, the defiance of norms and the capacity for contradiction to expand perspective, he explains: "I'm really interested in what sculpture can be and how a sculpture can spread out and use much more space than it physically has." The resulting work instills light, sound and smell with unexpected material presence; at the same time the normally airtight rationale of industry is detoured into a surreal history.

Rather than abandoning the rural countryside in pursuit of engineered cities and a virtual future, Sailstorfer romantically channels primordial elements (i.e. fire and water) and pastoral landscapes through mutant machines. Cornerstones of this evocative project include *Forst*, which turns a trio of upended trees into the spinning dancers of a melancholic ballet, and *Clouds*, which lead our eyes upward to the knotted play of otherwise ordinary inner tubes. In concert with photos, objects and actions that similarly divert the typical course of nature and culture, Sailstorfer orchestrates work that purposefully stands outside logic, purpose and clear explanation. With every ensuing problem arrives maddening, and inspiring new possibility.

Michael Sailstorfer was born in 1979 in Vilsbiburg, Germany, and currently lives in Berlin. He studied at the Academy of Fine Art in Munich and Goldsmiths College in London, and has been part of residencies in Los Angeles (Villa Aurora) and the Office for Contemporary Art Norway in Oslo. In 2004 he showed at the Sydney Biennial and at Manifesta 5 in San Sebastian, following up with exhibitions at Artists Space, New York (2005) and Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin (2006). Other solo shows have taken place in Austria, Belgium, Dubai, France, Italy and Switzerland. Sailstorfer is represented by the Johann König Gallery in Berlin, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin in Paris, Galeria Fortes Vilaça in São Paulo, Zero Galleria in Milan, and Galerie Thaddeus Ropac in Salzburg.

Michael Sailstorfer: *Every piece is a new problem* is curated by CAC Curator Steven Matijcio. This exhibition is generously supported by Sandra and Stephen Joffe and Artswave Corporate Partner: Convergys Corporation.