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HAMMER PROJECTS: KEREN CYTTER

On view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, January 5 – April 4, 2010



Left-right: Keren Cyttter. *Les Ruissellements Du Diable* [*The Devil's Stream*], 2008. Digital video, color, sound, 10 min. Courtesy the artist and Pilar Corrias Gallery, London. *Untitled*, 2009. Digital video, color, sound, 9 min. Courtesy the artist and Pilar Corrias Gallery, London.

Keren Cyttter makes films that portray characters entangled in complicated relationships, simultaneously connected and alienated from one another. Inspired by direct experiences and observations of her surroundings as well as the films, plays, and novels of such luminaries as Alfred Hitchcock, John Cassavetes, Roman Polanski, Jack Smith, Jorge Luis Borges, Tennessee Williams, and Samuel Beckett and mainstays of popular culture like soap operas and science fiction, her work is carefully scripted and produced while maintaining a sense of spontaneity and unpredictability. While several of her videos were shot in her apartment in Berlin using either professional actors or a cast of friends and acquaintances—including two works that will be on view, *Les Ruissellements Du Diable* [*The Devil's Stream*] (2008) and *Four Seasons* (2009)—her untitled work for last summer's Venice Biennale, also included in the show, was filmed with professional adult actors and untrained children on a stage with a live audience.

Les Ruissellements Du Diable [*The Devil's Stream*] takes the short story by Argentinean author Julio Cortázar, which provided the basic narrative structure for Michelangelo Antonioni's iconic film *Blow-Up*, as its inspiration and examines questions of perception, memory, and documentary truth in photography. *Four Seasons*, in which two of Cyttter's acquaintances play the lead roles, is a melodrama with references to absurdist theater, surrealist narratives, and the fraught relationships at the heart of Tennessee Williams' plays. Loosely structured on John Cassavetes's film *Opening Night*, Cyttter's untitled work revolves around the life of an actress and explores notions of identity in relationship to role-playing. Cyttter's non-linear narratives, short scenes, repetition, and use of a hand-held camera create absurdly abstract sequences of highly dramatic interactions and events, infused with both humor and pathos.

Keren Cyttter was born in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1977. She studied at The Avni Institute in Tel Aviv and at de Ateliers in Amsterdam before moving to Berlin, where she currently lives. Cyttter's work has been the subject of numerous one-person exhibitions at venues including Tate Modern Turbine Hall, London; X Initiative, New York; Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; KW Institute

for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich. Her work has been included in thematic exhibitions including *Faro Mondi / Making Worlds* at the 53rd International Art Exhibition, La Biennale de Venezia, Venice; *Television Delivers People*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; *Manifesta 7*, Trentino; and *Talking Pictures*, K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf. Most recently, Cytter created her first theatrical performance, *History in the Making or The Secret Diaries of Linda Schultz*, performed at the Tate Modern and at The Kitchen in NYC as part of Performa 09.

This exhibition is organized by **Anne Ellegood**, Hammer senior curator.

Hammer Projects is a series of exhibitions focusing primarily on the work of emerging artists.

Hammer Projects is made possible with major gifts from Susan Bay Nimoy and Leonard Nimoy and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Good Works Foundation and Laura Donnelley; L A Art House Foundation; the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles; and the David Teiger Curatorial Travel Fund.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society. Founded by Dr. Armand Hammer in 1990, the museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. Associated UCLA collections include the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is led by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from 1960 to the present.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **www.hammer.ucla.edu**.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation.

Hammer Museum Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.