

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers, 1205 Genève t +41 22 329 18 42 f +41 22 329 18 86 www.centre.ch

PRESS KIT

STERLING RUBY

SOFT WORK

24.02 – 22.04.2012

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PRESS RELEASE

January 2012

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(*1972)

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The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève presents the first solo exhibition in Switzerland by the Los Angeles based artist, Sterling Ruby – described by New York Times art critic Roberta Smith in a 2008 review as "one of the most interesting artists to emerge in this century". Taking cues from artists such as Mike Kelley and Paul McCarthy, Ruby works in a variety of different media. His work is a form of assault on both materials and social power structures. The show in Geneva will focus on one significant body of work within the artist's practice that has not yet received specific attention: the "soft sculpture".

Sterling Ruby's prolific production including richly glazed biomorphic ceramics, large-scale spray-painted canvases, poured urethane sculptures, nail polish drawings, collages and hypnotic videos draw on an extremely wide variety of sources, ranging from modernist architecture or street culture to the aesthetics of bodybuilding, highlighting the mechanisms by which societies and bodies are coerced.

The artist confronts the elements and forms of minimalism – one of whose aims was to eliminate all traces of the author (as if the work/object was self-generated) – reinterpreting them with a hypercorporeal, brutal and gestural expressionism that liberates the repressed urges of the unconscious. The minimalists' "less is more" now reads as the "more is more" of a hyperconsumer society. The artist counterpoints this modernist heritage with a multifarious body of work that operates via transformation, mimicry and assimilation – strategies that are at the fore in the artist's soft sculptures.

In some of these works, using pillows, blankets and quilts, Sterling Ruby's concern is an elucidation of an underlying terror or fear at the heart of the American concept of the domestic. At the same time the artist uses these materials – stuffed fabrics – to transform threatening or aggressive subject matter into playfully pop-like forms, alluding to the consumerist insatiability of Western capitalism. These sculptures also explore space and the "gender" of the material – which tends to have feminine associations – just as Ruby has done with other works, ceramics in particular.

Sterling Ruby will present a large-scale installation of new soft sculptural works designed especially for this exhibition at the Centre. "SW SET 1" includes radically gestural and corporeal pieces as well as more formalized geometries. The installation will occupy the full length and height of the gallery space, presenting the works in layers and heaps so that the visitor is hurtled into an aesthetic maelstrom.

Born in Bitburg, Germany, in 1972, Sterling Ruby (American) lives and works in Los Angeles. Ruby has exhibited in many galleries and institutions, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Galleria d'arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo (Italy), The Garage: Center for Contemporary Culture in Moscow, the CAPC in Bordeaux, the Sprüth Magers galleries in Berlin, Pace in Beijing and Xavier Hufkens in Brussels.

Curator: Katya García-Antón

This exhibition is organised in collaboration with the FRAC Champagne-Ardenne (France).

SAVE THE DATES:

Exhibition	24.02 – 22.04.2012
Press	23.02.2012 at 4pm
Opening	23.02.2012 at 6pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES:

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève
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IMAGE SHEET



STERLING RUBY, 2011
Courtesy of the artist

POUR LES IMAGES EN HAUTE RÉOLUTION ET LES VUES D'EXPOSITION (A VENIR) / FOR
HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AND EXHIBITION'S VIEWS (AVAILABLE SOON) :

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BIOGRAPHY OF STERLING RUBY

Born 1972 in Bitburg, Germany
Lives and works in Los Angeles, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2011

"I AM NOT FREE BECAUSE I CAN BE EXPLODED ANYTIME", Sprüth Magers, Berlin, Germany
"Paintings", Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
"Sterling Ruby", The Pace Gallery, Beijing, China
"Sterling Ruby & Lucio Fontana", Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, USA

2010

"Metal works", Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
"Sterling Ruby. Ashtrays", Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
"New works", Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
"2traps", Pace Gallery, New York, USA

2009

"Sterling Ruby & Robert Maplethorpe", Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
"The Masturbators", Foxy Production, New York, USA
"Sterling Ruby at Rossio Square", Arte 09, Lisboa, Portugal
"Grid Ripper", GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy

2008

"Spectrum Ripper", Sprüth Magers, London, UK
"Zen Ripper", Galleria Emi Fontana, Milan, Italy
"Sterling Ruby Supermax", MCA, Museum Of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA
"Chron", The Drawing Center, New York, USA
"KILN Works", Metro Pictures, New York, USA

2007

"Slasher Posters & Pillow Works", Bernier/Eliades Gallery, Athens, Greece
"Super Overpass", Foxy Production, New York, USA

2006

"Interior Designer", Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
"Recombines", Galleria Emi Fontana, Milan, Italy
"Supermax 2006", Galerie Christian Nagel, Cologne, Germany

2005

"This Range", Guild & Greyshkul, New York, USA
"Adjoining The Voids: Sterling Ruby & Kristen Stoltmann", Sister, Los Angeles, USA
"New Work", Foxy Production, New York, USA

2004

"Interior Burnout", 1R Gallery, Chicago, USA

2003

"Tamper Tantrum / Inanimate Death Magician", Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, USA

"Free Association Always Ends Up with Pelvic Mirroring", 1R Gallery, Chicago, USA

"The Hydroponic Connection", Suitable Gallery, Chicago, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2011

"American Exuberance", Rubell Family Collection, Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, USA

"Eslöv Wide Shut: 100 years Anniversary of Eslöv", Blomsterberg's Warehouse, Eslöv, Sweden

"Shadow Gap", White Cube, London, UK

"New Works in Ceramics", Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

"Soft Machines", The Pace Gallery, New York, USA

"Taka Ishii Gallery", Tokyo, Japan

"George Herms: Xenophilia (Love of the Unknown)", Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA

"The Shape of Things to Come: New Sculpture", Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

"Silence and Time", Dallas Museum of Art, Texas, USA

"At Capacity: Large Scale Works from the Permanent Collection", Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA

"After Hours: Murals on the Bowery", Art Production Fund & The New Museum, New York, USA

"California Dreamin. Myths and Legends of Los Angeles", Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France

"New York Minute", The Garage: Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia

"San Francisco Indie Fest: Offensive!", Roxie Cinema, San Francisco, USA

"Artprojx Cinema", SVA Theatre, New York, USA

"Blemishes", Park De Oude Warande, Museum De Pont, Tilburg, The Netherlands

"Highways Connect and Divide", Foxy Production, New York, USA

"The Roller Shutter Project", The New Museum, New York, USA

"Greater L.A.", New York, New York, USA

"Dystopia", CAPC - Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

"Paul Clay", Salon 94, New York, USA

2010

"Misericordia", Prism Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

"50 years at Pace", The Pace Gallery, New York, USA

"Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960.s", San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas, USA

"Supernature: An Exercise in Loads", AMP, Athens, Greece

"Cave Painting", Gresham's Ghost, New York, USA

"Suitable Video: Works from the Suitable Exhibitions Archive", Western Exhibitions, Chicago, USA

"Long live the amorphous law", School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

"This that & then some", Independent, New York, USA

"The Quite Edition", White Slab Palace, New York, USA

"Permanent Trouble", last German Art Forum Gallery, Regensburg, Germany

"The Transformation Show", Gallery 400, Chicago, USA

"Psychotrope", Institute of Visual Arts (Inova), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, USA

"Aftermath", Taka Ishii Gallery, Kyoto, Japan

"It's All American", New Jersey Museum of Contemporary Art, Wickatunk, USA

2009

"Five", Red October Chocolate Factory, Moscow, Russia

"Nothingness and Being", Fundación/Colección, Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico

"Modern Mondays: An Evening with Sterling Ruby", Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

"Beaufort 03", Art by the Sea, Ostende, Belgium, USA

"California Maximalism", Nyehaus, New York, USA

"In Bed Together", Royal/T, Culver City, USA

"Beg, Borrow, and Steal", Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, USA
"Sterling Ruby / Robert Mapplethorpe", Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
"Why Painting Now?", Blondeau Fine Art Services, Geneva, Switzerland
"Cave Painting", New York, USA
"New Photography 2009", The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
"Breaking New Ground Underground", Stonescape, Calistoga, USA
"New York Minute: 60 Artists from the New York Art Scene", produced by the Depart Foundation, Macro Future Museum, Rome, Italy travelling to The Garage: Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia in 2011
"Second Nature: The Valentine-Adelson Collection at the Hammer Museum", Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA
"Works on View", Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA
"Your Gold Teeth II", Marianne Boesky, New York, USA
"Abstract America: New Painting and Sculpture", The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
"Five", Baibakov Art Projects, Red October Chocolate Factory, Moscow, Russia

2008

"The Station", Midblock East, Miami, USA
"Endless Summer", Glendale College Art Gallery, Glendale, USA
"Base: Object", Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, USA
"Dirt on Delight: Impulses that Form Clay", Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, USA; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
"Begin Again Right Back Here", White Columns, New York, USA
"If You Destroy the Image, You Destroy the Thing Itself", Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway
"Now: Selections from the Ovitz Family Collection", Arizona State University Art Museum, USA
"TempeSubstraction", Deitch Projects, New York, USA
"The Skat Players", Vilma Gold, London, UK
"Stray Alchemists", Ullens Center of Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
"New Acquisitions 2", The Rachofsky House, Dallas, USA

2007

"Uneasy Angel/Imagine Los Angeles", Galerie Spruth/Magers, Munich, Germany
"Fit to Print", Gagolian Gallery, New York, USA
"Fearful Objects", Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago, USA
"POST ROSE", curated by Sterling Ruby, Galerie Christian Nagel, Berlin, Germany
"Raise High The Roof Beam", Rainbo Club, Chicago, USA
"Circumventing the City", D'Amelio Terras Gallery, New York, USA
"Dark Mirror", Netherlands Media Art Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"Stuff: International Contemporary Art from the Collection of Burt Aaron", Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, USA
"Seattle Art Museum at 75, Building a Collection for Seattle", Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
"I Want to Believe", Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, Switzerland
"The Second Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
Group exhibition, Metro Pictures, New York, USA
"Mixed Signals", Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, USA
"Material Photographs", Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, USA

2006

"Red Eye: L.A. Artists from the Rubell Family Collection", Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA
"Into Black", Western Bridge, Seattle, USA
California Biennial, 2006, Newport Beach, USA
"Only the Paranoid Survive", Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, New York, USA
"Behind the Pedestal", Jonathan Viner, London, UK

2005

"Having New Eyes", Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, USA
"T1-Turin Triennial: The Pantagruel Syndrome", GAM Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderne e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
"All the Pretty Corpses", The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
"Voiceovers", Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, USA
"Sugartown", Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York and Participant Inc., New York, USA
"5 X U", Team Gallery, New York, USA
"Untitled", Marc Fox, Los Angeles, USA
"Exploding Plastic Inevitable", Bergdorf Goodman, New York, USA
"Excessive Projections / Projections of Excess", Open Screen CAA: New Media Caucus, Atlanta, USA
"Resonance", Netherlands Media Art Institute / Montevideo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"GEO", Foxy Production, New York, USA

2004

"Face-Off", Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, USA
LOOP '04 Video Art Fair & Festival, Asociacion Art Barcelona / Barcelo Hotel Sants, Barcelona, Spain
"Dark Side of the Sun", Wight Gallery / UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
21st Kasseler Documentary Film & Video Festival, Filmladen Kassel, Kassel, Germany
"Mystery Blaze in Holiday Cottage", Monya Rowe, New York, USA
"Imitations of Life", De Balie Cinema, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"Chicago Experimental", Les Musées de Strasbourg – Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg, France
"Tapestry from an Asteroid", David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
"Depression: What is It Good For?" Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago Signal and Noise Festival 2004, Video In Studios, Vancouver B.C., Canada
"Material Eyes", collaboration with Kirsten Stoltmann, Zach Feuer LFL, New York, USA

2003

"America Annihilates Consciousness", Smart Project Space, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"See How The Land Les", Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, USA
"When Darkness Falls (Part 2)", Midway, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA
"When Darkness Falls", Gallery 400, UIC College of Architecture & Arts, Chicago, USA
"Blinky 2", Tate Britain, London, UK
"Red Beats", Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas, USA
"Behind the Pedestal", Bower Gallery, San Antonio, Texas, USA
"Rethinking Landscape", Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Lancaster, USA
"Hysterical Pastoral", The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA
"Fiction in Video", WORM, Nighttown Theater, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
"Video Mundi", Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, USA
"Chicago's Own: New Work by Jennifer Reeder and Sterling Ruby", Chicago Filmmakers, Chicago, USA
"Subtle, not so subtle", 1R Gallery, Chicago, USA