

HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
1701 Main Street PO Box 209
Peekskill, New York 10566
TEL 914.788.0100
FAX 914.788.4531
www.hvcca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art announces THE FORM OF MATTER, a poetry and dialogue collaboration with the Hudson Valley Writers Center and stage director Mara Mills

January 22ND – 25TH, 2009

Peekskill, NY... In collaboration with the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, the Hudson Valley Writers' Center, Sleep Hollow, affiliates of the Westchester Arts Council and stage director Mara Mills, **A FORM OF MATTER** presents six 5-10 minute short poetry performances inspired by works of art in *Origins*, a group exhibition of art made with natural materials such as clay, ash, fiber, wood and soil. This is the second annual art and writing project chaired by stage director Mara Mills, following the successful Image & Script performances of last year. Participating poets have chosen particular artworks in the exhibition for inspiration for a poem or poems for one or multiple voices. Each respective work of art will serve as a backdrop for each performance. The audience will move from one art work to the next as the performances progress. Seating is on the floor or standing. Audience is limited to 30 people a showing. Additional performance times will be added by demand. This project is sponsored in part by a grant from the Westchester Arts Council.

A CALL FOR POETRY & DIALOGUE

Interested poets and writers are invited to HVCCA on November 23rd at 2:00pm or November 24th at 6:00pm to view the *Origins* exhibition. Poets will choose one of the sculptures to use as the inspiration for a poem or poems for one or multiple voices. Background material on the artists, images, and a tour of the exhibit, with one of HVCCA's staff, will be available as well as a chance to commune on your own with the works.

A committee will review the submitted writing anonymously, and poems will be chosen to be performed in close proximity to their chosen work of art on January 22-25, 2009.

Guidelines: Work must be no longer than 5-8 minutes.

Deadline: December 15, 2008. Poems may address the creative process, the artist's process, or the viewer's process, or may be inspired by the image in the paintings or the emotions they evoke. Writers may perform their own work or an actor will be asked to perform. Mara Mills and Tom Kramer will direct the works. Submissions should include a cover sheet with Title, Name and Contact Information. Please put only the title on the poem itself.

Submissions should be sent to HVCCA via email at jessicarogers@hvcca.org or by mail to the following address:

HVCCA PO Box 209 Peekskill NY 10566 Attn: Jessica Rogers

Email submission is preferred.

If you cannot make the tour at HVCCA on November 23rd or 24th, you can call to arrange a private visit. The tour is recommended, especially if you have questions. Please join us for the tour and be inspired. RSVP by calling 914.788.0100.

For questions on content or concept call Mara Mills at 914.747.4949.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT "ORIGINS"

Origins, presents major works by 30 artists from 15 countries using natural materials: clay, ash, fiber, wood and soil. Through a variety of different practices, the artists included in *Origins* approach the use of primal materials such as clay, fiber, wood and soil, as mediums that have arrived in the present day with a tremendous amount of tradition attached to them. This history is both a resource for the production of new styles that play with iconic formal vocabulary and a kitschy series of precedents artists can react against. Handcrafted qualities and personal sensibilities are emphasized as something of an antidote to the high production values of much contemporary art today. At the center of the exhibition is the human figure as a locus of expressive possibilities. Whether metaphorically presented, disfigured, dismembered, blown out of proportion, shrouded, or animated, the body is offered to the viewer in various ways—as a spiritual totem, a monument to corporeal identity, or even an effigy onto which neurotic tendencies and consumptive guilt are projected.

Participating Artists:

Magdalena Abakanowicz, Matthew Barney, Joseph Beuys, Bruce Bickford, Huma Bhaba, Louise Bourgeois, Berlinde Debruyckere, Nathalie Djurberg, Robert Gober, Andy Goldsworthy, Rachel Harrison, Zhang Huan, Anselm Kiefer, Sigalit Landau, Wolfgang Laib, Richard Long, Ana Mendieta, Cady Noland, Rona Pondick, Bruce Robbins, Gregor Schneider, Kiki Smith, Lee Ufan, Rebecca Warren, Franz West

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Thursday, January 22ND, 2009

Time: 6:00PM Admission: \$15.00 HVCCA & Hudson Valley Writers Center members, \$20.00 non-members

Friday, January 23rd, 2009

Time: 6:00 PM Admission: \$15.00 HVCCA & Hudson Valley Writers Center members, \$20.00 non-members

Saturday, January 24th, 2009

Time: 2:00 PM Admission: \$15.00 HVCCA & Hudson Valley Writers Center members, \$20.00 non-members

Saturday, January 24th, 2009: Performance with formal reception

Time: 6:00 PM Admission: \$25.00 HVCCA & Hudson Valley Writers Center members, \$35.00 non-members

Sunday, January 25th, 2009

Time: 2:00 PM Admission: \$15.00 HVCCA & Hudson Valley Writers Center members, \$20.00 non-members

For Tickets: Call 914.788.0100 or email info@hvcca.org

Project Organizer and Stage Director:
Mara Mills
914.747.4949

Stage Director
Tom Kramer

HVCCA Contact:
Jessica Rogers, Managing Director
914.788.0100, jessicarogers@hvcca.org

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ABOUT HUDSON VALLEY WRITERS CENTER

Hudson Valley Writers' Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988 with a mission to advance the art and craft of writing by encouraging writers and readers at all levels to participate in and enjoy the literary arts. It offers classes for professional and amateur writers, presents public readings by well-known and emerging prose writers and poets, does outreach work in several community sites, and publishes at least one book of poetry each year under the imprint Slapering Hole Press. Programs and events at The Hudson Valley Writers' Center are made possible in part by grants from the Bydale Foundation, the David G. Taft Foundation, the Orchard Foundation, and the Thendara Foundation; and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, the National Endowment for the Arts; and by the Basic Program Support Grant of the Westchester Arts Council with funds from Westchester County Government.

ABOUT MARA MILLS

Mara Mills has been a professional storyteller, stage director, producer and arts educator for more than twenty years. She is the author of *Rites of Passage*, an integrated curriculum on script writing (National Middle School's Association Journal, February 1990), and a chapter on children as storytellers in the text *Integrating Curriculum through the Arts*, as well as a book of poetry, *Ashes and Tea*. Recently she worked with Domestic Abuse Survivors to create a choral script. Mara created Drama Departments for The Mead School in Greenwich and The Learning Community in Westport and was the Artistic Director of the successful Herbert Mark Newman Theatre from 1991 – 2004. She received the 1996 award for outstanding service to theatre from the national theatre association and the 2007 Cab Calloway award for her work in theatre in Westchester.

ABOUT TOM KRAMER

Tom Kramer as a director: *Follies, Our Town, 1776, Gypsy, Violet, Falsettos, The Grapes of Wrath, Master Class, Sunday in the Park with George, A Midsummers' Night Dream, Evita, Chicago, A Little Night Music, Tintypes, Love, Valour, Compassion, Nine, The Miracle Worker, Fiddler on the Roof*. As actor: *Ben Franklin in 1776, Buzz in Love, Valour, Compassion, Oscar Wilde in Gross Indecency, Malviolio in Twelfth Night, Max in The Sound of Music*. As playwright: *Ain't Murder a Drag* with Jamie Whitfield, *Celluloid Ghosts*.