

MUSEUM OF ART

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

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The RISD Museum of Art Presents "Pulled Up" by Carl Ostendarp

Friday, February 13 through Sunday, August 23, 2009

PROVIDENCE, RI—The RISD Museum of Art presents *Carl Ostendarp, "Pulled Up,"* an exhibition in its Lower Farago Gallery that not only borrows its title but also its optimism from the 1977 Talking Heads song of the same name. Opening February 13, "*Pulled Up*" will feature works chosen by the artist from the Museum's collection together with new paintings of his own. Ostendarp (American, b.1961) has taught and exhibited widely, and his artwork is held in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among other museums.

Ostendarp came to the attention of Judith Tannenbaum, the Museum's Richard Brown Baker curator of contemporary art, when she encountered an installation at Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany, called *All Tomorrow's Parties*. In this work—which took its name from the 1967 Velvet Underground recording with German singer Nico—Ostendarp presented Pop Art classics by Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, and others against bright pink walls bordered with red drips. Last year, the Elizabeth Dee Gallery (New York) presented an 18-year retrospective of Ostendarp's work; a review in the *New Yorker* described the installation as "tangy confluences of Pop, minimalism, color-field, and cartoons."

After seeing Ostendarp's work in Frankfurt and New York, Tannenbaum invited him to produce an installation at The RISD Museum. During a visit to view the collections, he was drawn to works on paper by a range of master artists in styles as varied as Dada and Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, and Pop. In the completed installation, these works from the collection will be juxtaposed with two new paintings by the artist and hung on a two-color, drip-pattern mural designed by Ostendarp and painted by him with the assistance of several RISD graduate students. The works from the collection range from Odilon Redon, Hans Arp, and Joan Miró, to Adolph Gottlieb, Barnett Newman, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, John Wesley, and Ed Ruscha, among others.

While pulling works from the Museum's collection, Ostendarp was keenly aware of the 1970 intervention at The RISD Museum by Andy Warhol for his historic "Raid the Icebox" exhibition. Ostendarp also has been inspired by music in much of his work and for the RISD installation, he borrowed the title from the Talking Heads because of their connection to RISD-- Tina Weymouth and Chris Franz are both graduates.

Ostendarp's work is both cheerful and sly. Typically spare and often including simple biomorphic forms or words, his compositions are flooded with flat color. Often inspired by music, Ostendarp will create multi-sensory experience for visitors by playing the Talking Heads 1977 album in the gallery, producing a total experience that invites visitors to see these older pieces in a new light.

The Farago Wing of the Museum is devoted to presenting contemporary art. The upper gallery features permanent collection installations and the lower gallery presents artist's projects such as this one by Ostendarp.

PROGRAMMING

Lecture: Carl Ostendarp

Thursday, February 26, 6:30 pm

Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

For his installation "Pulled Up"—on view in the Lower Farago Gallery—In his lecture, Ostendarp talks about this project as well as his interest in late Modernism, including Pop Art and Minimalism.

ORGANIZATION

Judith Tannenbaum was named The RISD Museum's first curator of contemporary art in 2000. In 2002, she became the Richard Brown Baker Curator of Contemporary Art, the Museum's first endowed position. At RISD she has organized *Wunderground: Providence, 1995 to the present* (2006); *Island Nations: New Art from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and the Diaspora* (2004); *Betty Woodman: Il Giardino dipinto* (2005); *On the Wall: Wallpaper by Contemporary Artists* (2003); and *Jim Isermann: Logic Rules* (2000); among other exhibitions. From 1986 to 2000, Tannenbaum served variously as curator, associate director, and interim director at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania.

The RISD Museum of Art, a world-class museum in Providence, RI, was founded as part of Rhode Island School of Design in 1877. Its permanent collection of more than 84,000 objects includes paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, costume, furniture, and other works of art from every part of the world, including objects from Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and art of all periods from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, up to the latest in contemporary art. In addition, the Museum offers a wide array of educational and public programs to more than 100,000 visitors annually.

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