EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

ARCTIC HYSTERIA: NEW ART FROM FINLAND

Organized by P.S.1 Director Alanna Heiss, and FRAME Director Marketta Seppälä.

June 1 through September 15, 2008. Opening Day Celebration: June 1, 12-6PM

(Long Island City, NY – May 20, 2008) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents Arctic Hysteria: New Art from Finland, an intergenerational and interdisciplinary exhibition featuring 16 Finnish artists who will introduce New York audiences to outlandish visions of aliens, utopias, animals, and psychedelia. Arctic Hysteria will be on view in the First Floor Galleries, Café, and Boiler Room from June 1, 2008 through September 15, 2008. In conjunction, Warm Up will present two major Finnish bands Jimi Tenor and Op:1 Bastards on August 23. On September 15, The Museum of Modern Art will present a special screening of Electric Forest, a compilation of historical and contemporary Finnish video works.

Built especially for the exhibition, the Futuro Lounge is conceived as an homage to Matti Suuronen’s 1960s design of the legendary Futuro House, and serves as a screening room for videos and documentaries. In the Corner Gallery, the severe and breathtaking installation by sculptor Markus Copper invokes the tragic sinking of the Russian submarine Kursk in 2000. An ice breaker, blinding snowscape, and a choir of twenty men together compose a documentary by Mika Ronkainen of the Screaming Men. In P.S.1’s mysterious Boiler Room, Veli Granö’s films introduce eccentric individuals who are obsessed with outer space and the paranormal. Tea Mäkipää’s 60-foot long photographic collage, World of Plenty, is an ambitious depiction of a utopian landscape. A newly composed sound piece by Sami Sänpäkkilä accompanies this installation. In Mäkipää’s latest video, the artist literally presents the world from a reindeer’s perspective, by attaching a camera to its antlers. Nature also plays a central role in Anni Rapinoja’s “couture pieces” where shoes, coats and hats are made from leaves and in Pekka Jylhä’s installations that feature stuffed hares.

For their U.S. debut, the Pink Twins present a room of psychedelic video and sound pieces derived from various digital sources. Stiina Saaristo’s black-and-white drawings combine overtly masculine and feminine body parts to challenge the genre of self-portraiture. Mika Taanila’s film on Erkki Kurenniemi, a pioneer in electronic music, juxtaposes Kurenniemi’s musical instrument DIMI-S and his swearing robot Master Chaynjis. Tellervo Kalleinen & Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen present a compilation of Complaints Choir performances, and will develop a new piece during a workshop on June 8. Jari Silomäki’s ongoing photographic project My Weather Diary stems from local circumstances but addresses universal themes that are common to us all. Also on view is a tragicomic video diary of the dancer Reijo Kela, and two videos by the internationally renowned artist Salla Tykkä. Ilkka Halso’s giant fantasy photographs, which suggest the union of the natural landscape and built environment, are presented in the Café and Lobby.

Organizers
Alanna Heiss has organized numerous international exhibitions, including Dennis Oppenheim: Selected Works 1967-1990 which toured Finland in 1993. Marketta Seppälä is a distinguished contemporary art curator who has organized exhibitions worldwide, and worked with Ms. Heiss when she brought the ambitious international exhibition Animal. Anima. Animus to P.S.1 in 1999.
The exhibition is organized by P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in collaboration with the Artists’ Association of Finland and FRAME Finnish Fund for Art Exchange.

The exhibition is made possible by the Ministry of Education Finland, Finnish Fine Arts Academy Foundation, Gerda and Salomo Wuorio Foundation, Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Finnish Cultural Foundation, Finnish Film Foundation, Arts Council of Finland, AVEK (The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, and Consulate General of Finland in New York.

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P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background:
P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000. In 2004, P.S.1 launched the world's first Internet art radio station, Art Radio WPS1.org, which operates out of the historic Clocktower in Lower Manhattan.

Support:
Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Office of the President of the Borough of Queens, The Council of the City of New York, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Additional funding is provided by individuals, foundations and corporate contributions.

Exhibitions at P.S.1 are made possible by the Annual Exhibition Fund with support from Peter Norton and the Peter Norton Family Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Lawton W. Fitt and James I. McLaren Foundation, Kathy and Richard S. Fuld, Jr., Altria Group, Inc., José Olympio Pereira, Michel Zaleski, David Teiger, Mimí and Peter Haas Fund, and Anna Marie and Robert F. Shapiro, with additional funding from Enzo Viscusi, John Comfort, Dennis W. LaBarre, E. William Judson, Donald L. Bryant, Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation, Clarissa Alcock Bronfman, Ena Swansea, John and Connie Cioffi Foundation, Heineken USA, and Susan G. Jacoby and The Friends of Education in honor of Peter Norton and Gwen Adams.

Time Out New York is the official print partner of exhibitions and public programs at P.S.1.

Directions:
P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends), the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:
P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.
• artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
• LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:
Admission is a $5.00 suggested donation; $2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:
www.ps1.org • www.wps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:
April Hunt, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, april@ps1.org or 718.786.3139

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