

May 8, 2007

Contact:

Amber Whiteside, 415.357.4170, awhiteside@sfmoma.org

Libby Garrison, 415.357.4177, lgarrison@sfmoma.org

Robyn Wise, 415.357.4172, rwise@sfmoma.org

**SFMOMA PRESENTS NEW SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BY
GERMAN ARTIST FELIX SCHRAMM**

From June 29 to September 30, 2007, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) will present *New Work: Felix Schramm*, the latest exhibition in the Museum's ongoing *New Work* series. Organized by SFMOMA Assistant Curator Apsara DiQuinzio, the exhibition centers on a newly commissioned, ephemeral installation by German artist Felix Schramm. The presentation also features a selection of related photocollages and a newly acquired sculpture, *Soft Corrosion*, 2006.



Felix Schramm, *This is not a wall* (installation view), 2007; Courtesy Grimm | Rosenfeld, New York and Munich; © Felix Schramm; photo: Stefan Rohner

Based in Düsseldorf, Germany, Schramm is best known for creating visceral, site-specific installations that respond to, and destabilize, the architecture of the institutions housing them. His twisted, splintered fragments of structural forms—walls, ceilings, floors—burst from the gallery's framework at dramatic angles, producing large-scale works that resemble the aftermath of an unknown disaster. Schramm's precarious planes seemingly penetrate the walls of the space, an illusion the artist achieves by constructing walls that mimic the institution's architecture. Seeming at once threatening and fragile, each of Schramm's constructions achieves a poetic balance between chaos and order, offering visitors an experience of physical tension in the gallery.

Over the course of three weeks, Schramm will build a site-specific sculpture of monumental proportions inside SFMOMA's galleries. Employing rudimentary materials such as sheetrock, plaster, plywood, metal brackets, and various found objects, the resultant work will span two galleries, measuring more than 18 feet high, 55 feet long, and 26 feet deep. In preparation for his site-specific projects, Schramm builds a maquette of the work within his studio. Once on site, however, he works spontaneously and organically, constantly reconfiguring the piece and working through obstacles that may arise during construction. Fragments of the sculpture frequently break off only to become re-integrated at a later point.

more

Viewers will not be able to see the work in its entirety from any single vantage point, as one must move through, under, and around it, constantly changing perspective and position.

New Work: Felix Schramm also features *Soft Corrosion*, a circular sculpture made of wood, plaster, and sheetrock, with a turntable inside its hollow core that plays *Guitarrenträume in Gold*, a German recording of popular guitar melodies. Schramm discovered the record in a flea market near his home in Düsseldorf, and then rendered its songs unrecognizable by puncturing the album so it rotates on an irregular ellipse and plays at the slow speed of 16 rpm. The sound distortion produced by the artist's modification heightens the experience of spatial disorientation that is central to Schramm's practice.

In conjunction with the opening of the exhibition, SFMOMA presents an artist talk featuring Schramm on Friday, June 29, from noon until 1 p.m. in the Koret Visitor Education Center. This program is free and open to the public. A free illustrated brochure, with an essay by DiQuinzio, is available in the exhibition galleries.

The *New Work* series is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and is generously supported by Collectors Forum, the founding patron of the series. Major funding is also provided by the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, Nancy and Steven H. Oliver and Robin Wright.

* * *

Museum hours: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:45 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day): Open at 10 a.m. Closed Wednesdays and the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas. The Museum is open the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Koret Visitor Education Center: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:30 p.m. Summer hours: Open at 10 a.m.

Admission prices: Adults \$12.50; seniors \$8; students \$7. SFMOMA members and children 12 and under are admitted free. Thursday evenings after 6 p.m. admission is half-price. The first Tuesday of each month admission is free.

SFMOMA is easily accessible by Muni, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, and Caltrain. Hourly, daily, and monthly parking is available at the SFMOMA Garage at 147 Minna Street. For parking information, call 415.348.0971.

Visit our Web site at www.sfmoma.org or call 415.357.4000 for more information.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is supported by a broad array of contributors who are committed to helping advance its mission as a dynamic center for modern and contemporary art. Major annual support is provided by Koret Foundation Funds, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. KidstART free admission for children 12 and under is made possible by Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Thursday evening half-price admission is sponsored by Banana Republic.

#