

MILLS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2011

Mills College Art Museum Announces Exhibition of New Work by Los Angeles-based Artist Frances Stark

Oakland, CA—August 18, 2011. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to present *Frances Stark: the whole of all the parts as well as the parts of all the parts*, an exhibition featuring multiple video works in a performative installation by Los Angeles-based artist Frances Stark. Curated by Sandra Percival, the exhibition will be on view September 15 through December 11, 2011. The opening reception will take place on September 15 from 6:00–8:00 pm.

Stark's exhibition explores the space between text, drawing, PowerPoint, musical score, film, random video chats, animation, installation,

and live performance in an eight-part video installation that unfolds one part at a time. *The whole of all the parts as well as the parts of all the parts* evokes a cinematic experience in an exhibition, it is not a film, but it is like a film. Orchestrated and directed through the exhibition and space of the gallery, one screen after the other, requires time; upon completion, the gallery is illuminated, revealing another side of the story. Brazenly emerging from the delusion of her desired metamorphosis, Stark contemplates the impossible fact of being herself at the same time that she is herself. *The whole of all the parts as well as the parts of all the parts* is indeed still in parts, moving toward a final stage and finale that will take place at Performa in New York in November.

The performative impulse in Stark's work has been evolving in a series of works and performances since her exhibition *Torment of Follies* (2008) at the Secession, Vienna, where her installation was compared to the musical interpretation of a libretto in opera. Texts drawn from *Ferdynand*, the 1937 novel by the Polish writer Witold Gombrowicz, reappear in Stark's live performance *I've Had It! And I've Also Had It!* at the Aspen Opera House (2010) which was accompanied by two string trios simultaneously playing Haydn's divertimento *Das Echo* and Lady Gaga's hit-parade song *Telephone* played backwards—later revised and rearranged in her performance *I've had it and a half!* At the Hammer Museum, UCLA (2011). Stark's conception is also about reception—the separation between the artist herself and the form of the work, and the conversation she holds with the audience, return again to herself. In evolving and manifold ways, Stark's work explores the different spaces of language, writing, and working; and of herself, her body, and being an artist in today's world.



Frances Stark is a Los Angeles-based artist and writer with an MFA from the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA. She is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California. Solo exhibitions of her work have been presented at the MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge; Portikus, Frankfurt; Secession, Vienna; Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and Kunstverein, Munich. Her work has also been shown in the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham; Aspen Art Museum, CO; Tate Modern, London; De Appel, Amsterdam; New Langton Arts, San Francisco; Kunsthalle, Basel; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Institute for Contemporary Art, London. Stark's exhibition at MCAM coincides with her participation in the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, and, in New York, Performa 11.

Curator, Sandra Percival, is the director of YU, a new contemporary art center in Portland, OR. *Frances Stark: the whole of all the parts as well as the parts of all the parts* is supported by the Joan Danforth Art Museum Endowment and the Susan L. Mills Gallery Fund.

Image: Frances Stark, *I've Had It! And I've Also Had It!*, Aspen Opera House, 2010.

Public Programs (please visit mcam.mills.edu for updated details):

Opening Reception

Thursday, September 15, 2011, 6:00-8:00 pm,
Art Museum

Frances Stark: Artist Lecture

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 7:00 pm
Danforth Lecture Hall, Art Building

About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. The Mills College Art Museum is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free for all exhibitions and programs unless noted. For more information, visit mcam.mills.edu

About Mills College

Nestled in the foothills of Oakland, California, Mills College is a nationally renowned, independent liberal arts college offering a dynamic progressive education that fosters leadership, social responsibility, and creativity to approximately 950 undergraduate women and 550 graduate women and men. The College ranks as one of the *Best 376 Colleges* in the country and one of the greenest colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Mills one of the top-tier regional universities in the country and second among colleges and universities in the West in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. For more information, visit www.mills.edu.