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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MUSEUM TO INAUGURATE NEW BUILDING WITH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION “UNMONUMENTAL”

New York, NY...Re-opening to the public on December 1, 2007, in conjunction with its thirtieth anniversary, the New Museum will inaugurate its new SANAA-designed home on the Bowery with an ambitious international group exhibition occupying all three of the building's main gallery floors. “Unmonumental” will launch with a survey of sculpture by thirty artists from around the globe and expand over the course of five months into a dense, environmental experience with the addition of important new collage, sound, and Internet-based works by thirty-eight additional artists. The exhibition, conceived as a cumulative event in four parts, explores a major trend in contemporary art addressing the fractures and contingencies of today's world in frequently witty, challenging, and poignant ways.

“Unmonumental” is sponsored by BNP Paribas, and will be on view at the New Museum from December 1st, 2007 through March 23, 2008.

““Unmonumental” is the ideal inaugural exhibition for the new New Museum and a true collaboration on the part of our curatorial team,” stated Lisa Phillips, Toby Devan Lewis Director of the New Museum. “Along with other inaugural programs, this exhibition concentrates on recent work from around the world that not only reflects but confronts the contemporary moment.”

If the word *monumental* connotes massiveness, timelessness, and historic significance, the works in “Unmonumental” are manifestly and consciously created in opposition to all such assumed authority. Rather than enduring and inarguable, they are delicate, provisional, deliberately of the moment, and often engaged in mocking a wide variety of histories in art and culture, from Russian Constructivism to 1980s appropriation. Far from paying tribute to traditional notions of the courageous, the works in “Unmonumental” are resolutely anti-heroic.

“The opening of this new century has been defined by the disappearance of monuments and the erasure of symbols, marked by indelible images of destruction and ruin,” the curators have written. “This millennium appears more concerned with the toppling of the idols rather than creating new icons, so it comes as no surprise then, that this first decade of the 21st century has



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produced an artistic language of fragments, and of debased and precarious forms, pictures and sounds.”

Part One of this inaugural event, titled “Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century,” will fill the column-free volumes of the second, third, and fourth floor galleries designed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of SANAA, creating a provocative dialogue with the Museum’s unique architecture.

On January 16th, 2008, Part Two of “Unmonumental”—“Collage: The Unmonumental Picture”—will bring collage and photomontage works to these gallery walls surrounding the sculptures.

Part Three will be added in on February 13, 2008, with “The Sound of Things: Unmonumental Audio,” which will fill the galleries with music, spoken words, and cut-and-paste noise. Part Four, “Montage: Unmonumental Online,” organized by the New Museum’s affiliate Rhizome, will serve as an online exhibition in which the logic of assemblage and collage is further taken apart and reassembled in a series of artworks that use and abuse the Internet. The exhibition can be viewed online beginning February 15, 2008, at rhizome.org/montage.

A detailed section-by-section summary of the four components of “Unmonumental” follows:

UNMONUMENTAL: THE OBJECT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

December 1, 2007-March 23, 2008

“Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century” explores the reinvention of sculptural assemblage. Using found, fragmented, and discarded materials, the works of the thirty artists on view make a case for modesty, informality, and improvisation. Organized by the New Museum’s curatorial team of Richard Flood, Chief Curator; Laura Hoptman, Senior Curator; and Massimiliano Gioni, Director of Special Exhibitions, “Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century” includes more than one hundred objects by thirty artists who represent a wide range of backgrounds and artistic strategies:

Alexandra Bircken
John Bock
Carol Bove
Martin Boyce
Tobias Buche
Carlos Bunga
Tom Burr
Abraham Cruzvillegas
Aaron Curry
Sam Durant

Urs Fischer
Claire Fontaine
Isa Genzken
Rachel Harrison
Elliot Hundley
Gabriel Kuri
Jim Lambie
Nate Lowman
Sarah Lucas
Matthew Monahan

Kristen Morgan
Manfred Pernice
Anselm Reyle
Marc André Robinson
Eva Rothschild
Lara Schnitger
Gedi Sibony
Shinique Smith
Nobuko Tsuchiya
Rebecca Warren



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“Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century” will be accompanied by a 264-page catalogue co-published by the New Museum and Phaidon. It includes essays by Richard Flood, Massimiliano Gioni, Laura Hoptman, and Trevor Smith, an independent curator, as well as illustrated sections on each of the thirty artists in the exhibition. The book also includes a chronology of unmonumental moments in the 21st century, organized by Benjamin Godsill, New Museum Curatorial Associate, and artists’ biographies by Sara Reisman, Program Director at the International Studio and Curatorial Program. The volume also includes a glossary of sculptural terms by Eva Diaz, former Joanne Leonhard Cassullo Curatorial Fellow.

COLLAGE: THE UNMONUMENTAL PICTURE

January 16-March 23, 2008

“Unmonumental” expands on January 16, 2008 with the opening of “Collage: The Unmonumental Picture.” Recent collages by eleven artists, including works made expressly for the exhibition, will be installed on the gallery walls surrounding the sculptures already on view. Using varied strategies and materials, each of the artists in this portion of “Unmonumental” exploits the formal and ideological power of juxtaposing found images to create everything from social and political commentaries to surrealist fantasies and personal confessions. Collage is a medium that by definition incorporates fragments and deals with opposing tensions, broken images, hidden desires, and collective myths. “The Unmonumental Picture” demonstrates the urgent relevance of collage practice in a contemporary world full of excessive imagery.

Participating artists are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Mark Bradford | Henrik Olesen |
| Jonathan Hernández | Martha Rosler |
| Thomas Hirschhorn | Nancy Spero |
| Christian Holstad | John Stezaker |
| Kim Jones | Kelley Walker |
| Wangechi Mutu | |

“Collage: The Unmonumental Picture” is organized by the New Museum curatorial team of Richard Flood, Laura Hoptman, and Massimiliano Gioni. A 144-page catalogue co-published by the New Museum with Merrill Publishers/Mondadori Electa accompanies “Collage: The Unmonumental Picture.” Essays by Flood, Hoptman, and Gioni, as well as interviews with and writings by the eleven artists in the exhibition, are included.



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THE SOUND OF THINGS: UNMONUMENTAL AUDIO

February 13-March 23, 2008

“The Sound of Things: Unmonumental Audio” begins on February 13th, 2008, with three programs of short audio collages by thirteen international artists with backgrounds in music, poetry, and visual art. These audio collages will be played in the galleries at three-minute intervals. Bringing together elements of found and created sound, music and spoken word, the diverse selection of audio works juxtaposes and knits together disparate aural elements to create a soundscape for the experience of living in an unmonumental world: nearly inaudible whispers, lyric melodies, piercing noises, and industrial clatter. “The Sound of Things” is organized by Lauren Cornell, Director, Rhizome, in collaboration with New Museum curators Massimiliano Gioni and Laura Hoptman. The participating artists are:

Vito Acconci	Nautical Almanac
Anthony Burdin	Keith Obadike
Trisha Donnelly	Pauline Oliveros
Paul Elliman	Susan Philipsz
Andy Graydon	Seth Price
Language Removal Services	Stefan Tcherepnin
Ulrike Müller	

A compact disc of the works in the show accompanies “The Sound of Things: Unmonumental Audio.”

MONTAGE: UNMONUMENTAL ONLINE

February 15–April 6, 2008

The final portion of “Unmonumental” will be presented online. “Montage: Unmonumental Online” will feature works by an international group of fourteen emerging and mid-career artists who appropriate diverse material from the Web to create new Internet-based montage. Cutting and pasting, breaking apart and re-assembling, ripping and remixing, the participating artists extend the radical practice of collage to the Internet, demonstrating how previously tried techniques can engender rich, new artistic practices. Their works incorporate varied formal elements: digital images, sound, video, or code, and also recite fictions and fantasies found online. The Internet is a veritable theme park for commerce, popular entertainment, and self-marketing. Rather than dismiss this creative space for these reasons, the artists embrace these unique conditions. The logic behind the selection of the work argues that an artist’s engagement with this system and simultaneous refusal to entrench commerce is among the most powerful tactics available to them. The exhibition will be available online from February 15 to April 6, 2008 at www.rhizome.org/montage. Participating artists include:

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Michael Bell-Smith
John Michael Boling
William Boling
Charles Broskoski
Jessica Ciocci
Petra Cortright
Chris Coy

Cao Fei
Kenneth Hung
Nina Katchadourian
Oliver Laric
Olia Lialina
Guthrie Lonergan
Paul Slocum

"Montage: Unmonumental Online" was organized by Lauren Cornell, Director, and Marisa Olson, Curator, of the New Museum's affiliate Rhizome. It will be accompanied by a publication that includes reproductions of artists' work, descriptions, and an extended curatorial statement by Cornell and Olson.

LEAD EXHIBITION SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

"Unmonumental" is sponsored by BNP Paribas. Additional generous funding has been provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund, and the J. McSweeney and G. Mills Publications Fund.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is the first and only contemporary art museum in New York City and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program unrivaled in the United States in its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum will be the destination for new art and new ideas.

LOCATION, HOURS, AND ADMISSION

The New Museum is located at 235 Bowery (at Prince Street between Stanton and Rivington Streets, one and a half blocks south of Houston)

The Museum will be open to the public Wednesday through Sunday, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. with extended evening hours on Thursday and Friday from 6-10 p.m. CIT is the lead sponsor of CIT Free Thursday Evenings (from 7-10 p.m). The Museum is closed to the public on Monday and Tuesday, except for prescheduled group tours on Tuesday.

General Admission: \$12
Seniors: \$8
Students: \$6
18 and under: free

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