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New Museum to Present Focused Survey of Work by Klara Lidén

New York, NY... This May, the New Museum will present the first large-scale, American museum exhibition of the artist Klara Lidén, featuring a selection of works in the Museum's second floor gallery. Lidén's exhibition at the New Museum is part of a series of focus shows that began last May with presentations by Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Gustav Metzger. "**Klara Lidén: Bodies of Society**" will be on view from **May 6–July 1, 2012**, and is curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Associate Director and Director of Exhibitions, and Jenny Moore, Assistant Curator.

In her practice, Lidén regularly mines the anxieties of urban space to create ingenious and psychologically charged installations. She scavenges the streets of cities around the world for discarded materials, which she uses to build sculptural hideaways in unexpected places. Following in the tradition of urban alchemists like Gordon Matta-Clark, Lidén uses her body as a tool and a weapon to radically alter the space of the museum and expose it to the material and political realities of the world outside. Lidén consistently engages with the folds and fabrics of cities she passes through, **adapting public space to her own needs** in the creation of surprisingly intimate, domesticated environments.



Klara Lidén, *Self Portrait with the Keys to the City*, 2005. Digital print. Courtesy the artist, Galerie Neu, Berlin, and Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York

This vision of the artist as a subversive creator is highlighted in her work *Elda för Kråkorna* (2008), where Lidén closed off a portion of a New York gallery and opened the space to pigeons flying in from the street. The viewer was denied access while it was offered to the birds. For her show at the New Museum, Lidén will create a progression of spaces that culminate in a **site-specific work that intervenes in the museum's architecture**, creating a place physically and psychologically apart. Her work demonstrates how an individual can navigate a constantly transforming urban landscape and carve out spaces of creativity to imagine new ways of living.

This exhibition will also feature a number of Lidén's **videos realized over the past decade**. She has performed **impromptu acrobatic routines** in a Stockholm subway car in *Paralyzed* (2003) and **moonwalked her way through the streets of Manhattan at night** in *The Myth of Progress–Moonwalk* (2008), which premiered in the New Museum exhibition "After Nature," (2008) and gave Lidén her first New York museum presentation. In these works, Lidén moves alone through urban settings gliding at a rhythm separate from the world around her. Also included will be Lidén's *Untitled (Poster Paintings)* (2007–10)—minimal objects composed of layers of stolen advertising posters excised by the artist directly from city streets. Covered with a layer of white paint, the works archive the advertisements that punctuate urban life and encourage viewers to adapt, respond to, and erase these ever encroaching corporate images.

"Klara Lidén: Bodies of Society," will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring essays by Massimiliano Gioni and Helen Molesworth, chief curator of the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, and a text on Lidén by the artist Pipilotti Rist.

About the Artist

Klara Lidén was born in 1979 in Stockholm, Sweden. She attended the School of Architecture at the Royal School of Technology in Stockholm from 2000 to 2004; the Berlin University of the Arts in Berlin, Germany, in 2003; and the University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm from 2004 to 2007. Lidén has been the subject of numerous solo presentations, including major exhibitions at the Serpentine Gallery, London, and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm. In 2009, Lidén's work was presented as part of an exhibition in the Danish and Nordic Pavilions at the 53rd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale and she received a special mention from the jury of the 54th Venice Biennale. Her work resides in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; and the Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, Norway; among others. Lidén currently lives and works in Berlin and New York City.

Support

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About the New Museum

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of ongoing experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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