

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY LA



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Laura Grover, for Communication Arts + Design, at 310-994-1690 or LDG@anet.net

Christine Anderson, President, Communication Arts + Design, at 310-869-8597

“SUSPENDED STATES,” A NEW EXHIBITION BY SANTA MONICA-BASED ARTIST MADDY LE MEL, TO OPEN AT THE GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY IN LOS ANGELES ON NOVEMBER 19 IN CONJUNCTION WITH PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

WORKS INCLUDE LARGE MIXED-MEDIA CONSTRUCTIONS AND SMALLER WALL-MOUNTED PIECES

OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST SET FOR 5-8PM

LOS ANGELES: In conjunction with **Pacific Standard Time**, new works by Santa Monica-based assemblage, sculpture, and installation artist **Maddy LeMel** will be presented in the exhibition *Suspended States* at the **George Billis Gallery** in Los Angeles (2716 S. La Cienega Blvd., LA, CA, 90034). LeMel has been called a “scavenger poet,” and is known for mixed-media constructions incorporating found objects that are reclaimed and given second lives in pieces created with wire, screen, thread, paper, metal fragments, and a deft articulation of light and space. An opening reception for the artist is set for **Saturday, November 19, 5-8PM**, and the show runs through January 2 (Dec. 24-Jan. 2 by appointment only, call the gallery at 310-838-3685). High-res images are available upon request.

LeMel’s new pieces for *Suspended States* are spare yet animated wire and metal cages containing vintage tools, which exist as almost anthropomorphized characters contemplating the nature of entrapment. These characters also seem to be sizing up exit strategies presented by openings in each cage that allow for escape. Connected by winding ladders, the works form a cohesive installation, suggesting that situations and relationships between individuals can cause patterns of restraint to ripple into society as well—along with opportunities to transcend such limitations. In a catalogue essay for LeMel, art critic **Constance Mallinson** wrote, “This uncomfortable limbo signifies the stage between possibilities, prompting us to ask, as LeMel has, what is worth saving or discarding, and ultimately how we can be transformed.”

Additionally, a series of smaller, wall-mounted pieces—which LeMel calls “shadow images”—presents visions of what things might look like outside the cage, ephemeral memories of past confinement. Throughout the works, LeMel balances the notion of actual physical confinement with the self-inflicted prisons of emotion, convention, and habit that rein us in. “Stepping outside our familiar worlds could cause us to plummet to the ground,” she says, “or perhaps we would learn to fly.”



LeMel’s work is has been shown in museums and galleries in the U.S. and Europe. She has had recent solo exhibitions at George Billis Gallery in New York City, Barnsdall Art Park and George Billis Gallery in Los Angeles, and the Louis Stern Gallery in West Hollywood. Of the latter, Holly Myers wrote in the *L.A. Times*, “We see keys, photographs, fragments of text, and bits of metal and wire preserved in cocoons of paper and plastic while threads dangle seductively, waiting to

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2716 SOUTH LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES CA 90034
PHN: 310.838.3685 FAX: 310.838.3438
EMAIL: LA@georgebillis.com
WWW.GEORGEBILLIS.COM

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be unraveled.” LeMel’s work has also been featured in art fairs including the Los Angeles Art Show and Art Now Fair in Miami Beach, and numerous group shows.



Born in Chicago, Maddy LeMel studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has lived in the Los Angeles area since 1962, and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California. LeMel has been exhibiting since 1992.

Quick Info:

Maddy LeMel’s exhibition *Suspended States*

Opening Reception for the Artist, Saturday, November 19, 2011, 5-8PM

George Billis Gallery LA

2716 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034, 310-838-3685

(Between Washington & Venice on S. La Cienega Blvd. in the Culver City art district)

www.georgebillis.com/galleryLA.html

For more information on Maddy LeMel: www.maddylemel.com

Hi-res files of the images in this news release are available at: www.photobucket.com/maddylemel

Password: maddylemel

About Maddy LeMel:

Assemblage, sculpture and installation artist Maddy LeMel has studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. LeMel’s mixed-media constructions incorporate found objects that are reclaimed and given second lives in pieces created with wire, screen, thread, paper, metal fragments, and a deft articulation of light and space.

LeMel’s work is included in many private and public collections, and has been shown in galleries in the U.S., and Europe. Her latest solo exhibition is 2011’s *Suspended States* at the George Billis Gallery in Los Angeles, in conjunction with Pacific Standard Time. In an essay for the show, art critic and reviewer for *Art In America* Constance Mallinson wrote, “Through combinations of the most ordinary objects that mysteriously morph into potent symbols and allegories of shifting human emotions, conditions, and situations, *transformation* has come to define the sculpture of Maddy LeMel.”

Previously, LeMel has had recent solo exhibitions at George Billis Gallery in New York City, Barnsdall Art Park and George Billis Gallery in Los Angeles, and the Louis Stern Gallery in West Hollywood. Her work has also been featured in art fairs including the Los Angeles Art Show and Art Now Fair in Miami Beach, and numerous group shows.

Born in Chicago, LeMel lives and works in Los Angeles and has been exhibiting since 1992.

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