

aspenartmuseum



Ian Kiaer, *Melnikov Project*, screen, 2011 (detail). Courtesy of the artist; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York; and Alison Jacques Gallery, London.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2012

THE ASPEN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS FIRST ONE-PERSON U.S. EXHIBITION OF THE WORK OF BRITISH ARTIST IAN KIAER

Installation is Based on Life and Work of Soviet Architect Konstantin Melnikov

On View Friday, February 17, Through Sunday, April 22, 2012

ASPEN, COLORADO—[The Aspen Art Museum](#) presents the first one-person U.S. exhibition of the work of British artist [Ian Kiaer](#), on view Friday, February 17, through Sunday, April 22, 2012. The exhibition is borne out of Kiaer's research into the Soviet architect Konstantin Melnikov. During the 1920s, Melnikov was at the forefront of the Soviet avant-garde, but refused to conform to the "rules" of Stalinist architecture and eventually turned to painting traditional portraits in his cylindrical house studio. Kiaer's *Melnikov Project* creates an allusive arrangement of forms, a poetic invocation of a moment when artists and architects believed themselves capable of transforming the world.

Kiaer often begins his projects with extensive research into visionary thinkers and practitioners who went against the grain of their time but have ultimately influenced current models of seeing and aesthetic contemplation, creating groupings of ephemeral sculptures that form carefully composed landscapes of found objects and materials, architectural models, and paintings. For Kiaer, these installations are ways

of exploring paradigms and testing concepts. Far from didactic, Kiaer's often spare, provisional tableaux create subtly evocative relationships between different elements, allowing us to construct our own narratives from the fragments. The nature of his objects compels a close viewing and offers simultaneous insight into our own perceptions, their shifts in scale and perspective highlighting relationships between the works and the space of the gallery.

Ian Kiaer was born in London in 1971, where he currently lives and works. He has had solo exhibitions at the Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy; Kunstverein Munich; Fondazione Maramotti, Milan; and Tate Britain, London. His work has been exhibited in numerous international group exhibitions, including *Manifesta 3* (2000), the 50th Venice Biennale (2003); the 4th Berlin Biennial (2006); and the 10th Biennale de Lyon (2009).

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS:

Thursday, February 16, 5 p.m.

A members-only gallery walkthrough and conversation with artists Ian Kiaer and Mark Grotjahn led by AAM CEO and Director, Chief Curator, Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson.

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for *I Don't Get It*—a no-questions-barred conversation about the Ian Kiaer exhibition with other community members and Aspen Art Museum curators.

Thursday, March 29, 6 p.m.

Writer, teacher, and curator Michael Newman considers the different elements of Ian Kiaer's *Melnikov Project* on view at the AAM: its relation to architecture and painting, the poetics of objects and materials, and the idea of the studio as a space of contemplation and creation.

This exhibition is organized by the AAM and funded in part by the AAM National Council. Publication underwritten by Mary and Harold Zlot. Exhibition lectures are presented as part of the Questrom Lecture Series and educational outreach programming is made possible by the Questrom Education Fund.

The Aspen Art Museum is a noncollecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Our innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society.

AAM MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays and major holidays

AAM ADMISSION IS FREE courtesy of John and Amy Phelan
Visit the AAM online: www.aspenartmuseum.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Meg Blackburn
FITZ & CO
212-627-1455 x225
meg@fitzandco.com

#