

For Immediate Release  
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CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

AIDA RUILOVA: THE SINGLES 1999 – NOW

SEPTEMBER 12, 2008 – JANUARY 4, 2009



Aida Ruilova, *life like [still]*, 2006, single-channel video installation with sound. Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York

St. Louis, MO —The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis proudly presents Aida Ruilova's premier solo U.S. museum exhibition, *The Singles 1999 – Now*.

Aida Ruilova creates dark, narrative video works in which cryptic characters and actions conjoin with horror movie aesthetics and elements of the sublime. Using classical cinematic devices and distinctively jarring, low-tech sensibility, Ruilova's work is imbued with strong formal and

associative relationships to music, as well as more visceral experiences of discrete sounds. The audio portion of her videos feature the muttering of evocative or repetitive phrases, heavy breathing, scrunching guitar strings, or vinyl LPs being scraped across cement. These sounds serve to reinforce both the physicality of her editing style, as well as the isolation, claustrophobia, and extreme psychological stresses alluded to throughout her work.

Ruilova—a classically-trained musician and member of the experimental music group Alva—is one of a young generation of artists who employ media with a do-it-yourself aesthetic, often drawing upon contexts—like cinema, music, and popular culture—that exist outside the art world.

Co-curated by Aspen Art Museum Director Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson and Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis Director Paul Ha, Aïda Ruilova: The Singles 1999 – Now is a comprehensive survey of her single-channel video work since 1999 and is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue. The exhibition is co-organized by the Aspen Art Museum and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Support for the exhibition catalogue is generously provided by Toby Devan Lewis; Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin; and Salon 94, New York.

General support for the Contemporary's exhibitions program is generously provided by the Whitaker Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; William E. Weiss Foundation; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Arts and Education Council; Nancy Reynolds and Dwyer Brown; and members of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

#### EXHIBITION TOUR

Aspen Art Museum: May 29 - August 10, 2008

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis: September 12, 2008 - January 4, 2009

Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff, Canada: January 24 - March 15, 2009

Contemporary Art Center New Orleans: April 11 - July 14, 2009

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland: September 11, 2009 - January 3, 2010

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Aida Ruilova was born in 1974 in Wheeling, West Virginia, and lives in New York. Ruilova's work has been featured in numerous international film festivals and museum exhibitions—including the 2004 Whitney Biennial, 50th Venice Biennale—as well as in exhibitions at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, Bard College Center for Curatorial Studies, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, White Columns, and the Moore Space. In 2006, she was shortlisted for the Guggenheim Hugo Boss Prize.

#### CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS

With a vision of presenting the most relevant and experimental developments in contemporary art and developing successful community partnerships, education programs and outreach initiatives, the Contemporary makes the arts available to wide and diverse audiences throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Founded as the Forum for Contemporary Art in 1980, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis re-opened with a new 25,000 square foot building in 2003.

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