



MAK

Press Release

AMIE SIEGEL. Provenance

Three-part installation at the MAK explores the speculative markets of art and design

Press conference	Tuesday, 21 April 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Opening	Tuesday, 21 April 2015, 7 p.m.
Exhibition venue	MAK Permanent Collection Contemporary Art MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition dates	22 April – 23 August 2015
Opening hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays from 6–10 p.m.

The work of New York-based artist Amie Siegel (* 1974 in Chicago, Illinois) moves between film, installation, photography, and performance and is concerned with filmic forms and the accumulative, cinematic representation of economic and political cycles. In her three part installation *Provenance*, the artist deploys the furniture of Swiss architect Pierre Jeanneret to shine a light on the sociology of modernist design. A new acquisition in the MAK Permanent Collection Contemporary Art, the complete work will be on view beginning on 22 April 2015. *Provenance* traces the journey of the design objects Jeanneret originally conceived as furnishings for Chandigarh, Le Corbusier's controversial planned city in India. The film begins in the current locations of the furniture pieces and develops a narrative backwards to their origins. In this way, the artist subtly links an examination of the history of modernity and themes of provenance and value to the speculative market surrounding art, design, and architectural icons.

The central work of the exhibition, the film *Provenance* (2013), initially portrays a well-tempered world in the flow of the current zeitgeist, a world that combines intellect and luxury, aspiration and reality. Soon the camera moves before a backdrop of political and economic strategies. By forgoing dialogue and using contemplative close-ups, Siegel turns the inanimate furniture into silent protagonists of her narrative sequences as they travel from private homes through galleries, warehouses and auction houses to restoration workshops and continue their journey by ship. The route taken by the furniture pieces, which were designed as everyday inventory for municipal employees in Chandigarh, ends in the buildings and offices of their original location.

Siegel's critical reflections of the art and design market are underscored in the MAK exhibition through the two works that complete *Provenance*. The video *Lot 248* (2013) shows the sale of *Provenance* at a Christie's London auction and thus documents the work of art as an element in the circuit of art, design, and capital. Siegel accentuates this infinite loop through *Proof (Christie's 19 October, 2013)* (2013), the printer's proof of the auction catalogue for the film *Provenance*, which today, in turn, is represented in major international contemporary art collections. The artist's gesture of encasing her auction catalogue page in Lucite, a transparent acrylic glass, gives *Proof* yet another "gilding."

Amie Siegel lives and works in New York. Her work has been shown at these museums and galleries, among others: The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), MoMA PS1 (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Hayward Gallery (London), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin), Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century Arts (Rome) and the Center for Contemporary Art (Tel Aviv). In addition, her work has been shown at the Cannes, Toronto and New York Film Festivals, and screened at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and at the Berlinale in Berlin. Siegel has been a fellow of the DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Film Study Center at Harvard University, as well as a recipient of the ICA Boston's Foster Prize. Most recently, she received a Sundance Institute Film Fund award and the inaugural Forum Expanded award at the Berlin Film Festival, both for *Provenance*.

This exhibition, including the acquisition of the work, was made possible through the generous support of Phileas.

Phileas—A Fund for Contemporary Art

Phileas is a new, philanthropic organisation based in Vienna that raises private funding to support contemporary art. It brings together artists, collectors, galleries and museums, collaborating with them to enable the production, exhibition and acquisition of art for public collections. *Phileas* will focus initially on two types of project: exhibitions by international artists in Austrian museums, and exhibitions by Austrian artists in international museums. In this way, it will contribute to a strengthening of Austria's voice within the landscape of contemporary art, and to the presence of its most promising artists on the international stage. *Phileas* was founded by Jasper Sharp and Moritz Stipsicz, in response to current debates regarding cultural philanthropy and the future of public funding. It is an independent, non-profit organisation, committed to long-term relationships with its partners. For more information, please contact: office@phileasprojects.org.



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Images for this exhibition are available for downloading at MAK.at/press.



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Press Data Sheet

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Curator	Bärbel Vischer, Curator, MAK Contemporary Art Collection
Supplemental program	Tuesday, 21 April 2015, 8:15 p.m. Conversation about the exhibition with the artist and art historian Helmut Draxler
	Tuesday, 12 May 2015, 6 p.m. Curator-guided tour with Bärbel Vischer, Curator, MAK Contemporary Art Collection
MAK Admission	€ 9,90 / reduced € 7,50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuber T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 presse@MAK.at www.MAK.at

Vienna, 11 May 2015