

**For Immediate Release**

**OLGA KOUMOUNDOUROS**

Curated by Lead Pencil Studio

Exhibition Dates: August 29-October 13, 2007

**Opening Event and Artist Talk: Wednesday, August 29, 5-8 PM**

Open Satellite Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 PM, second Thursday of the month 12-8 PM

Los Angeles-based Olga Koumoundouros examines the legacy of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century utopianism in an architectonic installation created with collaborator Leigh Jerrard during her residency at Open Satellite. Inspired by Bellevue's breakneck growth, Koumoundouros describes the abandonment and demolition of once promising single-family structures to make way for high-rise, mixed-use and amenity rich apartment communities. The upside of this urban renewal is the re-emergence of the optimism of Manifest Destiny in the form of optimism for the trappings of early 21<sup>st</sup> century home-ownership. The downside is the homogenization of an increasingly multicultural population through restrictive architecture and highly moderated communal space.

Constructed in part of recuperated building materials from Bellevue building sites, and serving as a series of questions about the financial and social success of the evolving housing model—What are the promises of the new model and who benefits? Did the old model fail or expire?—the installation is the most recent conversation in Koumoundouros's ongoing dialogue with the American Dream.

Koumoundouros received a BA in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont and an MFA from the California Institute for the Arts. She has exhibited widely in the U.S. and Europe, appearing in 2005 in *Thing*, the Armand Hammer Museum's critically acclaimed sculpture survey. In April of this year, Koumoundouros, in collaboration with four other artists, completed *The Philosophy of Time Travel*, a monumental re-imagination of Brancusi's *Endless Column*, at the Studio Museum of Harlem. She is represented by Adamski Gallery, Aachen, Germany.

*About the Curators:*

Annie Han and Daniel Mihalyo, co-chairs of the Open Satellite advisory board, operate as Lead Pencil Studio, an interdisciplinary studio that generates projects in art and architecture. They received the 2007/2008 Founders Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, a 2006 Emerging Voice award from the Architecture League of New York, and a 2005 Creative Capital Foundation Visual Arts Grant.

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*About Open Satellite:*

Open Satellite is a contemporary art exhibition hall for the Seattle metropolitan area. The residency-based program provides an opportunity for emerging and mid-career artists from outside the region to work for an extended period to create large-scale artwork in any medium. Exhibitions are staged four times annually with every fifth show focused on architecture as a critical position.

Open Satellite was formed in 2007 and is sustained by Su Development.

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