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For Immediate Release

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Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Presents

Gina Osterloh: *Anonymous Front*

Through the collapse of photographic space, anonymous figures, and familiar poses within portraiture, it is my hope to create new ground between a body politic, identity and abstraction.
— Gina Osterloh



Untitled; photo credit: Gina Osterloh

Saturday, January 21, 2012 – Sunday, April 8, 2012

**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94103
415.978. ARTS (2787), www.ybca.org**

Gallery Tickets: \$7 Regular; \$5 Seniors/Teachers/Students; Free for YBCA Members

SAN FRANCISCO — (December 8, 2011) YBCA is pleased to present Gina Osterloh's new project, *Anonymous Front*, a visual essay on physical blindness and identity, created in

collaboration with New Vision, a vocational massage therapy school for the blind in the Philippines.

Anonymous Front marks a new arc in Gina Osterloh's practice as she addresses perception, the body as prop. identity and sight and blindness through photographic works, sculptures and video. Her photographs depict rooms constructed of paper and fabric, demarcated with meticulous dot matrix and light patterns in which figures flutter between flatness and three-dimensionality. Through pared-down materials and aesthetics, she addresses the structure of sight and perception.

What struck Osterloh about the students at New Vision was how they coped with their visual impairments in a society that found no use for them due their disability. Being able to attend the school and develop their other senses so they could be trained as massage therapists was their only hope of surviving, and Osterloh was inspired to tell their poignant story through her art. Since some of the students became blind when they were children and therefore had some memories of sight, Osterloh also examined how this affected their perceptions of the world. All had been marginalized by their communities, creating a subculture of blind massage workers that has recently emerged as a part of Filipino society.

Gina Osterloh: Anonymous Front is organized around YBCA's Big Idea SOAR: The search for meaning, and is part of YBCA's *PAUSE: Practice & Exchange* program.

PAUSE: Practice and Exchange activates YBCA's Gallery 3 by creating an innovative series of process-based exhibitions with artists in residence from the Bay Area and around the world. These works include lectures, performances and workshops that transform the exhibition space into a fluid and active experience for audiences. Key components are cross-generational projects and multi-disciplinary collaborative artworks with a focus on influence, process and mentorship from both international and local artists. Artists are in residence for two weeks after the opening of their exhibition for talks and events.

"YBCA's PAUSE: Practice and Exchange program gives artists a chance to experiment," said Julio Cesar Morales, YBCA's PAUSE curator. "I want to encourage artists to take risks and give them the freedom to push their boundaries, as well as to create public programs around their work."

Public Programs

Alternative Artist Lecture

Saturday, January 21, 2012 2:00-4:00 p.m.

YBCA Large Conference Room/Free with gallery admission

A presentation by Gina Osterloh on art practices in the social, political and public sphere that inform her artwork.

Sound and Visual Constructions, Part 1

Thursday, January 26, 2012 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Gallery 3/Free with gallery admission

This special event features electronic media performances by renowned Bay Area and Los Angeles-based female experimental musical artists **Dohee Lee** and **Jacqueline Gordon**. They will be creating an original soundscape piece inspired by Osterloh's *Anonymous Front*.

Sound and Visual Constructions, Part 2
Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Gallery 3/Free with gallery admission

This second part continues with original electronic media performances, inspired by *Anonymous Front*, by renowned Bay Area and Los Angeles-based female experimental musical artists **Dohee Lee, Jacqueline Gordon** and **Laetitia Sonami**.

About the Artists

Gina Osterloh is an artist and educator based in Los Angeles, California. Her practice investigates operations of mimesis and perception within the realm of photography. Her photographs depict constructed life-size room environments activated through still, serial performance, papier-maché models and cardboard cutouts. Recent exhibitions include *Body Prop* (Silverlens Gallery) and *Differentiate*, a two-person exhibition at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2007-2008, Osterloh traveled to the Philippines on a Fulbright scholarship and created a new body of photographs that depicted spaces made from everyday office paper used in Manila. She was also awarded a Medici Grant and a Completion Grant by the Silverlens Foundation of the Philippines. While at Monte Vista Projects LA, she curated the exhibition *Minimum Yields Maximum*, which presented conceptual and political works from the Philippines, Vietnam and California. Osterloh holds a B.A. in media studies from DePaul University and an M.F.A. in studio art from the University of California at Irvine. Her work is represented by Silverlens Gallery, Manila and François Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles.

Born on Jeju Island in South Korea, where shamanic tradition is very strong, **Dohee Lee** learned Korean dance, Korean drumming and percussion and vocals in the tradition of Kyunggido. Now her art focuses on fusing these traditional forms with contemporary elements. Each piece and performance blends Eastern and modern Western musical forms and contemporary dance languages into pieces that emphasize the ritualistic and healing aspects of music and dance.

Jacqueline Gordon is a visual and sound artist who currently resides between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Her work integrates audio technologies into sculptural forms to question relationships of affect to an environment. Surrounding contemporary folk aesthetics with multiple layers of sound, Gordon creates mixed media installation pieces that form new psycho-acoustical mythologies.

Laetitia Sonami is a composer, performer and sound installation artist who designs and builds her own instruments. Her signature instrument, the *lady's glove*, allows her to control sounds, mechanical devices and lights in real-time.

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), located in San Francisco's Yerba Buena cultural district, is one of the nation's leading multidisciplinary contemporary arts centers. With a belief that contemporary art is at the heart of community life, YBCA brings audiences and artists of all backgrounds together to express and experience creativity. The organization is known for nurturing emerging artists at the forefront of their fields and presenting works that blend art forms and explore the events and ideas of our time. As part of its commitment to the San Francisco Bay Area, YBCA supports the local arts community and reflects the region's diversity of people and thought through its arts and public programming.

YBCA has selected four Big Ideas around which to organize its wide-ranging programs. They are: ENCOUNTER: Engaging the social context; SOAR: The search for meaning; REFLECT: Considering the personal; and DARE: Innovations in art, action, audience. These ideas, which encompass art from all disciplines, are designed to focus an investigation of contemporary art and its relationship to the larger world. Using the Big Ideas as portals, YBCA has established a framework of thought that invites exploration and risk-taking, quiet reflection and active engagement.

Performing arts, visual arts and film/video programs are curated thematically around Big Ideas which illustrate the connections and associations between the works. Public programs and YBCA's popular free open house series are dedicated to establishing a deeper understanding and appreciation of contemporary art. YBCA presents programming year-round in the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and Novellus Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787) or visit www.ybca.org.

Funding

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Free First Tuesdays are underwritten by Directors Forum members.

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