

Press Release

Karla Black

23 February – 24 March, 2012

Stuart Shave/Modern Art is delighted to announce a solo exhibition of new sculpture by Karla Black. This is the artist's first solo show with Modern Art.

Karla Black's sculptures are formed from materials that are loose, impermanent and fragile - combinations of various powders, make-up, toiletries, cellophane and polythene, along with more ordinary art-making materials such as paper, paint and plaster. The raw materials are at odds with what they become - often large scale, incredibly heavy sculptures that completely dominate and almost entirely fill the spaces they are in. Black's practice has a theoretical underpinning in psychoanalysis, feminism, and specific points in art history that relate to ideas of formlessness and performative gesture. Nevertheless, she favours an approach to understanding gathered from the immediate physical and material experience of sculpture over that which may be derived from language. Black has described her practice as a continual exploration of thinking, feeling and relating. There is a realism that appeals to her about sculpture: it is here in the world, and can be physically and emotionally engaged with.

This exhibition at Modern Art comprises a suite of sculptures that occupy the gallery's three exhibition spaces. Black's new works utilise characteristically light and delicate feeling forms that, as always, embody the difficulty and chaos of the creative moment, in challenging scales and positions throughout the overall rhythm of the exhibition. The new sculptures are made predominantly from loosely painted cellophane and dusted polythene.

Karla Black represented Scotland at the 54th Venice Biennale, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Turner Prize. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Ten Sculptures*, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nuremberg, Germany (2010); Modern Art Oxford, Oxford (2009); Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany (2009), Migros Museum, Zurich, Switzerland (2009); and West London Projects, London (2008). Karla Black's work has been included in the recent exhibitions: *Frauenzimmer*, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (2011); *Before the Law*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany (2011); *Structure and Material*, Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield (2011); *All of this and nothing*, 6th Hammer Invitational, curated by Douglas Fogle and Anne Ellegood, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2011); *Nouvelles Collections IV*, CentrePasquArt Kunsthau Centre d'Art, Biel, Switzerland (2011); *In the Days of The Comet, British Art Show 7*, The Hayward Gallery, London, Tramway, Glasgow, Slaughterhouse and Plymouth City Art Museum & Gallery, Plymouth (2011), and Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham (2010); *Neue Alchemie. Kunst der Gegenwart nach Beuys*, Landesmuseum Muenster, Muenster, Germany (2010); *Black Hole*, curated by Dr. Friederike Nymphius, CCA Andratx, Majorca, Spain (2009); *Nothing to say and I am saying it*, Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany (2009); *Strange Solution*, Art Now, Tate Britain, London (2008); the 1st Brussels Biennial, Brussels, Belgium (2008); and *Poor Thing*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2007). Karla Black was born in Alexandria, Scotland, in 1972. She studied at Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, where she completed BA Fine Art (Hons) (1999), Master of Philosophy (Art in Organisational Contexts) (2000), and Masters Degree in Fine Art (2004) during which she attended an exchange at Städelschule, Frankfurt, Germany (2003). She lives and works in Glasgow.

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