

PRESS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SILVIA BÄCHLI & MARGRÉT H. BLÖNDAL***Open; Wait***Curated by Chris Fite-Wassilak**19 May – 30 June 2012 | Opening reception Saturday 19 May at 2 - 4 PM | *Open; Wait* is part of the Reykjavik Arts Festival.

A light shines on the ground, the outline of a doorway. You step forward, drawn by its hesitant oblong shape, the door open just a crack to make a towering diamond. You imagine murmurs on the other side, the shufflings of conversation, and are in the midst of these images in approaching the opening when you come close enough. It is not a shard of light but a shadow, the inverse shape cast from a silent post. The door has closed.

Open; Wait is a multi-part conversation that begins between the sculptures of **Margrét H. Blöndal** and the drawings of **Silvia Bächli**. In both their first exhibition together and both artists' first exhibition with **i8**, minimal gestures accumulate to become an installation that gently usurps, manipulates, and re-opens the territory in front of us. Each artist's approach to shaping space provides a polyphony of rhythms and different orientations that can be elusive and entangling. In the midst of this is a balance, a tipping point on which rests the veil of experience and each of our own understandings of the personal politic. **Open; Wait** is an abstract conversation about reality, and a hard look at the void.

Silvia Bächli is based in Basel and Paris. Recent solo exhibitions include *Far apart – close together* at Kunstmuseum St. Gallen; she represented Switzerland at the 53rd Venice Biennale 2009. In 2008, she undertook a four-month residency in Seydisfjörður with Eric Hattan, resulting in the collaborative photographic series and publication *Blindhædir*.

Margrét H. Blöndal is based in Reykjavík. Recent solo exhibitions include Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, Texas, and Reykjavík Art Museum. Recent group exhibitions include *Momentum*, Moss, Norway, Manifesta 7, and Kunsthaus Baselland. In 2009, she was the artist in residence at the Laurenz Haus Stiftung, Basel.

Chris Fite-Wassilak is a writer, curator and critic based in London. Past curatorial projects include the Hayward Touring exhibition *Quiet Revolution*, and *All Humans Do* (co-curated with Aoife Tunney) at White Box, New York and The Model, Sligo, Ireland. Forthcoming projects include the performance event *Pre-Cast* with Dennis McNulty, and *Loving The Alien* at Maria Stenfors, London.

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