

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Tom Sachs, *Untitled (CE Wood Hasselblad)*, 2008

Tom Sachs Cameras

June 21, 2009, to September 16, 2010

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will offer a snapshot of Tom Sachs's work that focuses exclusively on cameras, opening on June 21, 2009.

For many years, a small but significant part of Sachs's production has dealt with cameras. This exhibition brings together twelve works, from 1972 to the present, that not only explore the camera as both sculptural and functional object, but, perhaps more importantly, chart the course that photography and the globalization of precision manufacturing has taken over the past century.

The exhibition includes the earliest existing work by the artist, a clay replica of a Nikon SLR camera that Sachs made when he was eight years old as a gift to his father. This contrasts with his recent elegy to the now-defunct Polaroid Corporation: a fully functional "instant" camera that has been cobbled together out of (among other things) a Canon digital camera, a tiny HP inkjet printer, and a battery from a Makita cordless drill.

Sachs's cameras turn the tables on the usual artistic photographic process, where the image made with the camera is the "art" and the camera itself is merely a tool. Playing off the consumer fetishization of photographic equipment, Sachs's cameras simultaneously deconstruct the technology of photography while at the same time revealing that these ubiquitous machines are compelling subjects in and of themselves.

Aldrich exhibitions director Richard Klein said, "While Tom is widely known for his do-it-yourself version of Pop appropriation, the *Cameras* exhibition expands upon his interest in the functional, utilitarian, and socio-economic meaning of objects, rather than their superficial character. This concern is what sets him apart from most other artists working with Pop influences."

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a public reception on Sunday, June 21, 2009, from 3 to 5 pm. Transportation from New York City is available. The exhibition will remain on view through September 16, 2009.

Museum funding provided, in part, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Special thanks to the opening weekend event sponsors: Collyer Catering, Ridgefield Magazine, HSBC Bank, WSHU Public Radio, and the Harry Zarin Fund.

The Artist:

Tom Sachs was born in New York in 1966 and grew up in Connecticut. The sculptor is probably best known for his elaborate recreations of various Modern icons, all of them masterpieces of engineering and design.

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He has made Knoll office furniture out of phone books and duct tape; recreated Le Corbusier's 1952 Unité d'Habitation using only foam core and a glue gun; and built a McDonald's using plywood, glue, and assorted kitchen appliances. All the seams, joints, and screws are left exposed; nothing is erased, sanded away, or rendered invisible. On a philosophical level, this means that nothing Sachs makes is ever finished; it can always be redesigned and improved. Recent exhibitions include *Bronze Collection*, Lever House, New York; *Space Program*, Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills; and Prada Foundation, Milan. Sachs is represented by Sperone Westwater, New York.

The Museum:

The Aldrich is one of the few non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States. Founded on Ridgefield's historic Main Street in 1964, the Museum enjoys the curatorial independence of an alternative space while maintaining the registrarial and art-handling standards of a national institution. Exhibitions feature work by emerging and mid-career artists, and education programs help adults and children to connect to today's world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.

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