

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Michael Sailstorfer, *Tornado* (detail), 2011.

Public Art Fund
announces
MICHAEL SAILSTORFER
Tornado

September 20, 2011 – February 19, 2012

**Doris C. Freedman Plaza, Central Park
(Corner of 60th Street and Fifth Avenue)**

July 8, 2011, NEW YORK, NY—Public Art Fund is pleased to announce **Michael Sailstorfer’s *Tornado***, the artist’s first public work in the United States, on view **September 20, 2011 – February 19, 2012** in **Doris C. Freedman Plaza, Central Park**. The visualization of a densely packed storm system, the work rises to more than 30 feet and features some one hundred distinct “clouds” made of inflated truck tire inner tube attached to a steel structure. Each is secured individually and rustles in the wind, revealing hints of the armature, and creating a dynamic, kinetic sculpture.

Though not intended as a literal representation of a cyclone, the work is inspired by the high velocity winds and raw power associated with these weather phenomena. Sailstorfer has long been interested in non-traditional art materials, often disassembling machines or recontextualizing existing materials to imbue them with new meaning. At the core of *Tornado* is the metamorphosis of the inner tubes from purely functional objects that help propel a truck forward, to “clouds” evoking the movement of a swirling cyclone. That the tire inner tubes are filled with air and rotate at a tremendous rate when a truck is in motion, further inspired Sailstorfer to transform them into the physical representation of a natural element—air.

“Michael’s work grows out of his research into the physical properties of a given material, such as the rubber tire, that is not usually considered for its sculptural potential,” said Public Art Fund Director & Chief Curator, **Nicholas Baume**. “At the same time, he is attuned to the expressive potential of materials when adapted from their original function to become works of art. Thus the towering tornado is both a captivating visual experience and a resonant, poetic gesture.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Through the artistic transformation of everyday objects and situations, Michael Sailstorfer creates artworks dealing with the states of euphoria to disintegration. Absurdity and comedy play as important a part in his work as does the question of the space a sculpture can occupy. He works with an enormous range of different functional objects and materials—from lampposts to helicopters, cars and caravans, to the forest floor—transforming them into engrossingly disparate sculptures characterized by charm and wit.

Born in 1979 in Velden/Vils, Germany, Sailstorfer lives and works in Berlin. He received his MFA from Goldsmiths College, London, and has studied in residencies in Oslo and Los Angeles. His work has been exhibited in Berlin; Oxford, UK; Rochester, NY; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Paris; and Milan, among other cities.

PROGRAMMING

Sailstorfer will speak as part of the ongoing lecture series, *Public Art Fund Talks* at The New School on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 6:30pm.

SUPPORT

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Additional funding is provided by Johann König, Berlin, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and Daniel and Brooke Neidich.

Public Art Fund gratefully acknowledges the partnership of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, First Deputy Mayor Patricia E. Harris, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin, and President of the Central Park Conservancy, Douglas Blonsky.

Public Art Fund is a non-profit organization supported by generous contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

ABOUT PUBLIC ART FUND

Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations, and exhibitions in public spaces. Since 1977, the Public Art Fund has worked with over 500 emerging and established artists to produce innovative temporary exhibitions of contemporary art throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled encounter with the art of our time.

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