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RICHARD
GRAY
GALLERY

MALIA JENSEN

March 22 through April 19, 2008
1018 Madison Avenue
New York

Richard Gray Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent sculptures by **Malia Jensen**. This exhibition is the artist's first with the gallery and includes nine bronze works made over the past two years, most of which have never before been shown.

Malia Jensen's work explores the complex and layered nature of human relationships, often employing animal or inanimate forms both as stand-ins for their human counterparts and as objects of our frustrations, anxieties, and desires. Through innovative use of materials, obsessive attention to surface, and a wry wit, her work breeds a powerful and beautiful tension between form and content.

Among the works on view is *Cat Brusher*, a bronze cat passing through a loop of hand-made brass-wire bristles. Based on an actual cat-indulgent invention the artist saw in an advertisement, the sculpture is inescapably sexual, both pandering to the notion of feline hedonism and recalling other sexually-charged sculptures from art history, with nods to both Edgar Degas's dancers and Robert Rauschenberg's *Monogram*, the celebrated goat and tire combine.

Prehistory is another source of inspiration for Jensen's work. The artist recently learned that millions of years ago, the ancestor of today's guinea pig was enormous, weighing approximately 1,500 pounds. Scientists can only speculate as to what this animal looked like, so Jensen chose to imbue the creature's endearing present-day descendant with a massive destructive force. In *Wrecking Pet*, she has made a small bronze guinea pig with a ring attached to its back, a pint-sized wrecking ball ready for demolition. The artist plans to ultimately produce the sculpture on a much larger scale, the size of a hippopotamus.



Malia Jensen was born on Honolulu in 1966. She was raised near Portland, Oregon, where she began exhibiting in 1991. Since that time, she has produced a concise body of work that has been shown widely in the Pacific Northwest, including at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and the Portland Art Museum. This is the artist's first exhibition in New York. Next fall, she will have an exhibition at Richard Gray Gallery-Chicago (with accompanying catalogue), also her first in that city. Jensen lives and works in New York.

Malia Jensen will be on view at Richard Gray Gallery at 1018 Madison Avenue, New York, March 22 through April 19, 2008.

For images or additional information, please contact Erin Fowler at efowler@richardgraygallery.com or (312) 642 8877.

Malia Jensen, *Cat Brusher*, 2008. Bronze, brass wire. 8 x 7 ½ x 7 inches.
Malia Jensen, *Pigeon*, 2006. Bronze with patina, enamel. 8 x 10 ½ x 4 ½ inches.