



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE



Top and bottom: Tavares Strachan, from the *Orthostatic Tolerance* project, 2009, photograph. Courtesy of the artist.

TAVARES STRACHAN: ORTHOSTATIC TOLERANCE

APRIL 24–AUGUST 2, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 6–8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST TAVARES STRACHAN AND WHITNEY LAUDER CURATORIAL FELLOW STAMATINA GREGORY: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The surf surrounding Tavares Strachan's (b. 1979, lives New York) hometown of Nassau, Bahamas is the site of an experimental rocket launch. Made of glass from island sand, and powered by sugarcane, the rockets mark a primary phase of the artist's *Orthostatic Tolerance* project (orthostatic means to stand upright, and tolerance refers to the ability to withstand pressure): to explore the heights of space and the depths of the ocean. Video, drawings, photography, and sculpture document the launch and allow a glimpse into the future. Through the rubric of scientific exploration, he engages both the resources and community of his home country, and investigates environmental, cultural, historical, and postcolonial issues. Strachan's installation will be on view in the Project Space at the Institute of Contemporary Art April 24– August 2, 2009.

The most recent stage of the *Orthostatic Tolerance* project—launching miniature rockets off the waters near Nassau, Bahamas—will be documented through an installation of drawings, photographs, video, and sculpture (including a compact equipment transport vehicle). Engaging both the resources and community of his home country, the artist investigates environmental, cultural, historical, and postcolonial issues through the rubric of scientific exploration.

Strachan holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Yale University. His work explores physical displacement and the juxtaposition of natural extremes: past projects include *The Distance Between What We Have and What We Want* (2006) which involved extracting a 4.5 ton block of ice from an Alaskan river and shipping it to Nassau, where it was kept frozen by solar energy, and *Glo-Our Rain Maker* (2006), which periodically created a miniature, artificial cumulus cloud. Strachan has had solo exhibitions at Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh; The Luggage Store, San Francisco; Pierogi Gallery, Brooklyn; Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York; and Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles.

This exhibition is organized by Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow Stamatina Gregory, and will be accompanied by a brochure publication.

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*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public from 12pm to 8pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is FREE everyday.
Free admission to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored by Glenn R. Fuhrman (W87/WG88) Fund.

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

ICA is grateful to the Iris and James Marden Exhibition Fund for sponsoring this Project Space exhibition. Additional funding has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation, Inc., the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH TAVARES STRACHAN: ORTHOSTATIC TOLERANCE.