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**For Immediate Release:**

**The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art**

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**DOUBLE DUTCH**

**Opening September 12, 2009**

**Opening reception: September 13, 2009 4-7PM**

In honor of the Quadra-centennial in September 2009 of the discovery and settlement of the Hudson River and its environs, the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVCCA), in Peekskill, New York is opening 'Double Dutch', with installations and sculptures at the HVCCA and along the Peekskill waterfront.

It was interesting for HVCCA to contemplate Dutch art and educational events in Peekskill not just for the historical fact of the Dutch founding (Jan Peeck) but because of parallels between the geography and topography of this region to Amsterdam and other Dutch cities where water canals and water passages are so prominent. The exhibition will also explore how these parallels may have shaped artistic practices.

HVCCA, founded in 2004, focuses on contextualizing current trends in contemporary art. Its exhibits have been highly regarded with visitors coming regularly from around the globe. HVCCA is also focused on the education of its local and regional community and participation in the betterment of Peekskill, a lower economic multicultural riverfront town with a very large presence of artists.

Past exhibitions at HVCCA have manifested an appreciation for the talent that has been emerging from the Netherlands, including Mark Manders, Erik van Lieshout and other Dutch artists in their exhibitions. HVCCA is the first US institution to exhibit the work of Folkert de Jong and currently houses a long term installation of his.

HVCCA determined to organize an exhibit of “DUTCH ART” in the main space of the museum. In preparation for the exhibition the founders of the HVCCA, Marc and Livia Straus, beginning in April 2007, visited the Netherlands twice, visiting some 200 studios, galleries, academies, alternative programs and residencies in an effort to better understand the Dutch art scene. In this journey they had enormous encouragement and referrals by so many, including artists, curators, consulate members and galleries, who all wanted to make certain that the Strauses saw as much as possible without anyone attempting to impose their own viewpoints. This spirit of generosity was unique.

It quickly became evident that a Dutch survey show had little value. A prism which was more restrictive was necessary. The central issue became to find extraordinary work that had a Dutch “soul,” and at the same time develop an exhibit where the works were more meaningful together so that the exhibit would have gravitas and coherence. What was discovered was that among some of the best younger installation artists – sculptors, who have grown up in Holland and/or who have spent many formative art years in Holland, there is an identifiable and distinctive thread. The work has a strongly architectural and structural vein that references the unique Dutch geography and historical antecedents.

Based on this premise it was decided to do an exhibit of “Dutch” installation artists, “*Double Dutch*” giving each artist a prominent area within the 8,000 sf, 24 ft. high exhibition space. Several of the artists are constructing works specifically for *Double Dutch*. Three of the artists, Karen Sargsyan, Alon Levin and Jennifer Tee, are creating the works as part of the HVCCA artist-in-residence program.

Selected works will also be constructed for and exhibited in the City of Peekskill and along the riverfront. This exhibition will run from September 12, 2009- July 2010. During this period Folkert de Jong’s massive work, “Mount Maslow,” will also be on view where the space is contiguous and is visible from the main exhibit area.

Artists included in the exhibition are:

Job Koelwijn  
Jennifer Tee  
Dylan Graham  
Maartje Korstanje  
Alon Levin  
Erik Van Lieshout  
Mark Bijl  
Rob Voerman  
Daan Padmos  
Karen Sargsyan  
Lara Schnitger  
Martha Colburn  
Marijke Van Warmerdam  
Martha Colburn  
Serge Onnen  
Guido van der Werve

This selection draws on more established artists as well as very young artists just emerging on to the art scene.

The HVCCA is enormously grateful for the support given to this exhibition by the Mondriaan Foundation, FONDS, The Consulate General of the Netherlands, the City of Peekskill and Arts Westchester.

