Lucy + Jorge Orta, Food-Water-Life installation, Tufts University. Photo: Alonso Nichols.

Otis College of Art and Design’s Ben Maltz Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition
Food – Water – Life / Lucy + Jorge Orta
the U.S. premiere and only West Coast venue of this traveling exhibition of work by Paris-based duo Lucy + Jorge Orta

LOS ANGELES, CA – August, 2014 – The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is proud to announce the upcoming exhibition, Food – Water – Life / Lucy + Jorge Orta, on view from August 16 through December 6, 2014. Ben Maltz Gallery is the only West Coast venue of this U.S. premiere of the Orta’s work. The exhibition is organized by Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA, and curated by Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox (c2 | curatorsquared). Lucy and Jorge Orta are on the Otis campus October 20-25 for a week-long residency working with Otis students and giving lectures. The residency week culminates with a public conversation between the artists and the curators, followed by a reception, on Saturday, October 25, 3pm-6pm.

The sculptures, drawings, installations and video by this Paris-based wife and husband duo Lucy + Jorge Orta collectively explore major concerns that define the 21st century: biodiversity, environmental conditions, climate change and exchange among peoples. As heirs to the practice of social sculpture, formulated by Joseph Beuys in the 1960s, the Ortas’ works are relics of their own function—beguiling assemblages that are the platform for the preparation of food, mechanisms that actually purify water, and elements created for a 2007 expedition to Antarctica that are part of an effort to amend the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The works in this exhibition are metaphors-in-action, constructions that perform the tasks of which they are emblematic.

These humorous, jerrybuilt contraptions are obviously not the most efficient means to purify, prepare and transport food and water, or to launch a world-wide humanitarian effort, but in their ability to actually function, albeit, awkwardly and haltingly, they gain power as works of art created to move us to awareness and action. The artists have created a unique visual language through which they tackle the major global issues affecting our lives and the precarious position of this planet. As the Orta’s artwork communicates widely to audiences beyond the field of contemporary art, it demonstrates the importance of art as a creative agent for awareness and change: their work embodies the philosophy that steers their pioneering art practice, “the ethics of aesthetics.”

Working in partnership since 2005, Lucy + Jorge Orta create, produce, and assemble their artworks and large installations together with a team of artists, designers, architects, and craftspeople. They stage on-location workshops, ephemeral interventions, residencies, and master classes, which explore the crucial themes of the contemporary world: the community, autonomy, dwelling, migration, sustainable development, and recycling. Their work has been the focus of important survey exhibitions in major museums, including: the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Modern Art Museum, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Hangar Bicocca, Milan; as well as the Venice, Havana, and Johannesburg Biennales.

Accompanying Publication: *Lucy + Jorge Orta/Food-Water-Life* was published in 2011 by Princeton Architectural Press with contributions from Judith Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan (c2 | curatorsquared), Hou Hanru, Ellen Luptan, and Zoe Ryan, and is available for purchase for $40 at the Tufts University Art Gallery or directly from www.papress.com; 192 Pages, 300 color illustrations.

The exhibition at Otis Ben Maltz Gallery is sponsored in part by the OTIS Board of Governors.

Exhibition Public Programs:

**Lectures by Lucy + Jorge Orta**
Tuesday, October 21, 11am-12:15pm, Free | The Forum, Goldsmith Campus, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, L.A. 90045
Thursday, October 23, 10-11:30am, Free | OTIS MFA Studios, 10455 Jefferson Blvd, Culver City 90232

**Conversation and Reception**
Saturday, October 25, 3-6pm, Free | Ben Maltz Gallery
Curators Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox in conversation with Lucy + Jorge Orta, 3-4pm, followed by a reception.

**Location:** Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045
**Parking & Admission:** Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.
**Hours:** Tue-Fri 10-5 / Thu 10-7 / Sat-Sun, 12-4. Closed Mondays, Aug 30-Sep 1, Nov 26-Dec 1
**Gallery Info:** 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery
**Gallery Tours for groups:** galleryinfo@otis.edu / http://www.otis.edu/ben-maltz-gallery/schedule-tour

About Otis: Founded in Los Angeles in 1918, Otis College of Art and Design prepares diverse students of art and design to enrich the world through their creativity, their skill, and their vision. The College offers an interdisciplinary education for 1200 full-time students, awarding BFA degrees in Advertising, Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/New Genres, and Toy Design; and MFA degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Public Practice, and Writing. Continuing Education offers certificate programs as well as personal and professional development courses. Additional information is available at http://www.otis.edu


##END##