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CONTACT: Kathy MacPherson, Gallery Outreach Coordinator
310.665.6909; galleryinfo@otis.edu; Images available

XAWERY WOLSKI: *POLVO/PROCH/DUST*

January 16 -February 21, 2004

Gallery tour with the artist on Friday, January 16, 6:30 pm followed by a reception from 7-9pm

LOS ANGELES, CA -- The **Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design** is pleased to present the following sculpture exhibition, ***Xawery Wolski: Polvo/Proch/Dust***, January 16 -February 21, 2004. The artist is conducting a tour of the exhibition on Friday, January 16 at 6:30 pm followed by a reception from 7-9 pm. This event is free and open to the public.



Xawery Wolski, Cadena, 1998

“The body parts that Wolski sculpts, like his other unique pieces that contain floral elements or amplified views of the epidermis, bear reference to a kind of erotic theater or a hieroglyph of desire.” - Fernando Castro Florez

Polvo/Proch/Dust includes **Xawery Wolski’s** sensuous, large-scale terracotta forms. The exhibition title “dust” in Spanish, Polish, and English bears homage to his global citizenry, as well as to the eventual “dust to dust” of the physical body, and the artist’s material. The exhibition highlights work completed in the last several years and includes a giant replica of a forty-foot steel chain; snaking intestinal tracks and elegant, minimal flesh forms; and rings of bulbous “clouds” suspended from fishing wire, all fashioned in smooth, skin-like terracotta. Growing up in Poland and residing in Mexico since 1996, Wolski’s carnal and visceral forms echo the predominant Catholic influence of these two countries. Very reminiscent of the tradition of ex-votos, his often headless or otherwise minimized human forms rest meditatively between the secular and religious.

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"[He] exposes our organs like the ex-votos and milagros that are seen hanging in the church, or where we make a haphazard offering of our lungs, heart or kidneys, and the dual gaze of our roaming Mexican eyes." --Elena Poniatowska

Similar to artists like Peter Shelton, Daniel Wheeler and even Beverly Semmes, Wolski explores the fragmented body in its micro and macro manifestations. His palette is pared down to neutrals as he tends to use white, yellowish cream, or a saturated black. His simple forms, with their understated, exquisite hues, are charged with longing and reverence, as well as subtle humor.

"The bone or white forms of Wolski's rigorous and subtle sculptures incite touch, but they also hold back, keep a distance, as if trying to protect their enigma." -- Fernando Castro Florez

Xawery Wolski was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1960, leaving in 1985 to live in Italy, France, the US, and Peru. He keeps a studio in Warsaw, while his primary residence since 1996 is Mexico City. He studied at several prestigious institutions including the Akademia Sztuk Pięknych in Poland; The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture; the Academie des Beaux Arts in Paris; and the Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastiques in Paris. He is represented by Galeria OMR in Mexico City, www.galeriaomr.com.

The Ben Maltz Gallery's presentation of this exhibition was funded in part by the Consulado General de Mexico with special thanks to the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores and Mexicana airlines.

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking inside gate at the La Tijera entrance and on the street

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm. Closed Mondays

Gallery Admission: Free

Information: 310.665.6905, gallerinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

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