

Vito Schnabel Gallery Presents
Sterling Ruby: STOVES
 December 29, 2015 - March 27, 2016
 Kulm Hotel
 Via Veglia 18
 7500 St. Moritz, Switzerland



Sterling Ruby, *Black Stove 2*, 2014.
 Painted stainless steel, 206 1/4 x 50 3/4 x 77 in.
 (523.88 x 128.91 x 196.85 cm).
 Photo: Daniel Martinek

(St. Moritz, Switzerland) In conjunction with his eponymous gallery's inaugural exhibition by Urs Fischer, Vito Schnabel is pleased to present an offsite public art installation by **Sterling Ruby**, entitled *STOVES*, which will remain on view through March 27, 2016. The installation is comprised of two working wood-burning stoves, each measuring 14 to 17 feet in height, set inside a garden across from the gallery at the Kulm Hotel. Each stove will be functioning at various times throughout the duration of the installation. While the stoves are partially autobiographical, as Ruby grew up on a farm in rural Pennsylvania with a wood-burning stove as its primary source of heating, they also serve as an allegorical form.

Ruby states, "At a certain age I was bound to the chores of chopping wood, stacking wood, and starting and maintaining a fire...I started to think specifically about the truncation of things within the stove. What does the fire mean? What is the alchemy of it?" Contrasting industrial materials against the natural environment and confronting issues of waste and consumption, the installation is a continuation of the artist's series currently on view at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris. This marks the first collaboration between Vito Schnabel and Sterling

Ruby. Ruby's installation reflects the gallery's ongoing intention to curate this and other public spaces throughout St. Moritz year-round as an extension of its programming.

About Sterling Ruby:

Sterling Ruby is known for his use of a wide range of aesthetic and material strategies, from sculptures made of saturated, glossy, poured polyurethane, bronze and steel, to drawings, collages, richly glazed ceramics, spray-paint paintings, photography and video, as well as textile works that include quilts, tapestries and large stuffed soft sculptures. Ruby has cited a diverse range of sources and influences including aberrant psychologies, urban gangs and graffiti, hip-hop culture, craft, masculinity, violence, public art and civic monuments, prisons, globalization, American domination and decline, waste and consumption. Even as his work deals with issues related to the violence and pressures within society, and art history, it also reflects his personal biography. In all of his work, he vacillates between the fluid and static, the minimalist and expressionistic, the hard and the soft, the pristine and the defaced. His voracious cycling through materials and subject matter has given rise to numerous recurring series and extended bodies of work.

Ruby has exhibited at institutions including the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Drawing Center, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, France; FRAC Champagne- Ardenne, Reims, France; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland; and Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden and Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy; Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture, Moscow and MACRO, Rome. His work was recently included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, the 2014 Taipei Biennial, and the 2014 Gwangju Biennial.



About Vito Schnabel:

Vito Schnabel is an independent curator and contemporary art dealer based in New York. He produced his first exhibition in 2003 at the age of 16. Since then, Schnabel has presented shows in various locations such as Galerie Bruno Bischofberger in Zurich, Acquavella Galleries in New York, a cloistered garden in Venice during the Biennale, photographer Richard Avedon's former studio, and the Farley Post Office in New York, carefully matching artists' work with unique and temporary exhibition settings. This past year, he curated an exhibition of Ron Gorchov's paintings at Sotheby's S|2 in London, and in May, he presented a group show at the historic Germania Bank Building on the Bowery, which had not been open to the public since the mid-1960s. The exhibition included works by Joe Bradley, Dan Colen, Jeff Elrod, Ron Gorchov, Mark Grotjahn, Harmony Korine, and Julian Schnabel. In addition to the St. Moritz gallery, Schnabel has an office and private exhibition space where he conducts his daily operations.

¹ "Sterling Ruby Talks His New Show..." Vogue, May 12, 2014.

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