

MEDIA RELEASE

THE PHYSICS ROOM

A CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECT SPACE

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE PHYSICS ROOM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

C.L.U.E. (Color Location Ultimate Experience)

robbinschilds + A.L. Steiner

25 November–20 December 2009

Opening preview: Tuesday 24 November 2009, 5.30pm



Image: Still from **C.L.U.E.** 2007. Courtesy of the artists and Taxter & Spengemann, New York.

C.L.U.E. (Color Location Ultimate Experience) is a collaborative video and performance work by New York-based artists robbinschilds, A.L. Steiner, AJ Blandford and Seattle-based band Kinski. A work permanently in progress, C.L.U.E. adapts to the space it temporarily occupies and by working with The Arts Centre, The Canterbury Community Trust and the Embassy of the United States of America, we are excited to announce that robbinschilds will be The Physics Room/Arts Centre International Artists in Residence from 19 November–19 December 2009.

Presenting their project **C.L.U.E.** within the context of The Physics Room's gallery during their time in New Zealand, robbinschilds (Layla Childs and Sonya Robbins) use a choreographed language of bodily movements as a vehicle to explore the natural and human-made landscape.

Probing the relationship between movement, architecture and a range of disparate environments in a style that is obsessive, persistent and often humorous, **C.L.U.E.** sees robbinschilds' traverse a range of locations that embody everything from the sublime to the mundane.

C.L.U.E. premiered at Taxter & Spengemann gallery in New York in March 2007 and has since been hosted by numerous galleries and venues within the United States of America, Europe and China. **C.L.U.E.**'s presentation in Christchurch will see the project make the most of the opportunities on offer here thanks to the support offered to robbinschilds by The Arts Centre, The Canterbury Community Trust and The Physics Room.

robbinschilds has presented choreographed and video works since 2003 in venues including P.S. 122, New York; Marfa Ballroom, Texas; and The New Museum, New York. robbinschilds has created original choreography for David Byrne's 2009 world tour and recently premiered their newest evening-length work *Sonya and Layla Go Camping* at The Kitchen, New York.

For more information about robbinschilds visit www.robbinschilds.com, and for further information about the public programmes that will be facilitated during robbinschilds' time as Artists in Residence in Christchurch please contact The Physics Room.

For further information on this exhibition, the associated public programmes and our residency programme please contact The Physics Room on +64 3 379 5583 or email physicsroom@physicsroom.org.nz

The Physics Room receives major funding from Creative New Zealand/Toi Aotearoa.



robbinschilds' residency is presented by The Physics Room in association with The Arts Centre, The Canterbury Community Trust and the Embassy of the United States of America.



BIOGRAPHIES

robbinschilds was formed by choreographers, Sonya Robbins and Layla Childs in 2003. The company creates performance and video works for diverse venues including the stage, gallery or "site". Focused on presenting highly visual time-based works, robbinschilds explores the juncture between architecture or place, and human interaction.

robbinschilds' performance work has been presented at various venues in the United States of America including: Dance Theater Workshop; PS 122; The Kitchen; The New Museum; Movement Research at Judson Church; Triskelion Arts; DanceSpace Project at St. Mark's Church; PS 1; The Whitney Museum at Altria and the Autumn Skate Bowl; The Marfa Ballroom; Fritz Haeg's Sundown Salon; and internationally at The Donau Festival (Krems, Austria). In addition to their live work, robbinschilds' video art has been exhibited at Vaska Emanouilova Gallery Sofia, Bulgaria (2009); Zendai MoMa Shanghai, China (2008); The New Museum, New York, (2008); Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid, Spain (2007); Taxter & Spengemann (2007); LACE: Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (2007); and was screened as part of BAM's 2007 Next Wave series.

robbinschilds has worked with the art collective Chicks on Speed and collaborated with Brooklyn-based duo Japanther, on the rock spectacle *Dinosaur Death Dance* commissioned by the *Performa 07* festival. In 2008, robbinschilds was commissioned to create original choreography for David Byrne on his world concert tour.

Recent company activities include a 2009 residency at Mt. Tremper Arts and an installation and performance of *C.L.U.E.* in September at Pica's TBA Festival. In November 2009, robbinschilds journeys to Christchurch, New Zealand to complete a month long residency and begin work on a new film and performance project assisted by The Physics Room and The Arts Centre, and with additional support from The Canterbury Community Trust and the Embassy of the United States of America.

A.L. Steiner uses constructions of photography, video, installation, collaboration, performance and curatorial work as seductive tropes channelled through the sensibility of a cynical queer eco-feminist androgyne. She's a collective member of Chicks on Speed, co-curator of *Ridykeulous*, a founding member of the activist group Working Artists and the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.), and collaborates as frequently as possible with robbinschilds. Steiner is based in Brooklyn, NY and is represented by Taxter & Spengemann.

AJ Blandford is an artist and constructor. She works with individuals, architects, artists, and organizations to help create and build environments, sets, and artwork. She is a longtime robbinschilds collaborator, and is a *C.L.U.E.* co-creator together with them and A.L. Steiner. In the past she has worked also with Fritz Haeg, Shannon Ebner, Manfred Pernice, Davide Balula, Eve Fowler, and the Center for Urban Pedagogy; and been involved with projects at The New Museum, The Whitney Museum of Art, Storefront for Art and Architecture, and recently renovated the new Taxter & Spengemann gallery in New York.

Kinski is a four-piece rock band from Seattle. Their unique evocation of avant-rock is deconstructionist and heady, but also emotive and visceral. NME described Kinski as: "Like Sabbath in a washing machine during a power surge." Comprised of guitarists Chris Martin and Matthew Reid-Schwartz (Matthew also plays keyboards and flute), bassist Lucy Atkinson, and drummer Barrett Wilke, Kinski have toured with Mission of Burma, Comets on Fire, Oneida, Mono, Acid Mothers Temple, Black Mountain, and most recently opened a month of dates for Tool on their spring '07 tour. They are currently at work recording their new record which should be out early 2010. Their most recent record "Down Below it's Chaos" came out in the summer of 2007.