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MILLS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Mills College Art Museum Announces
Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre
September 12-December 9, 2012***

Oakland, CA—August 15, 2012. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to present the first one-person museum exhibition on the West Coast of internationally acclaimed American artist Karen Kilimnik. *Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre* is dedicated to Kilimnik's longstanding fascination with 18th and 19th century classical and romantic story ballets and historical theatre. Curated by Melissa E. Feldman, *Dance Rehearsal* will be on view from September 12 through December 9, 2012. The opening reception will take place on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 6:00–8:00 pm. Free shuttle service will be provided from the MacArthur Bart station during the opening.

Featuring over 30 works from the late-1980s to the present, *Dance Rehearsal* encompasses all the diverse styles and mediums in which Kilimnik has worked—from figurative drawing and painting to mixed media *mise-en-scène* installations, collage, photography, and video, as well as more recent forays into set and costume design and choreography. Kilimnik often revisits and revises her work—historical theatres and stage sets, as well as famous dancers, pop stars and actors, make repeat appearances in her work. Kilimnik's consuming drive to re-envision certain plot lines, images and motifs relates to the ever-evolving nature of the performing arts with its endless variations, renditions and remakes. Kilimnik creates a phantasmagoric world of ballet and theatre that is all her own.

In addition to opening *Dance Rehearsal*, MCAM is excited to launch a new publication by the same name. *Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre* features over 60 large-scale, full color images of Kilimnik's work, some of which have never been reproduced before, and includes

new scholarship by independent curator Melissa E. Feldman, art critic and *frieze* co-editor Jörg Heiser, fashion designers Kate and Laura Mulleavy of Rodarte, and dance critic Apollinaire Scherr. *Dance Rehearsal* will be available for purchase beginning September 12 at the opening reception.

MCAM is also pleased to partner with the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, where *Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre* will be on view in Spring 2013.

Emerging in the late-1980s, American artist **Karen Kilimnik** is a key figure in contemporary art whose work in media ranging from traditional painting to video and live performance has reinvigorated and expanded the lexicon of narrative figuration. Swept up by beauty and the emotional tides of her often-tragic subjects—be they Patti Hearst or Giselle—Kilimnik's work nonetheless retains the knowing criticality possessed by all great cultural producers. The artist has been the subject of major solo exhibitions throughout Europe and the United States, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia and the Consortium, Dijon, both in 2007, the Serpentine Gallery, London and ARC/Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, in 2006, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice (2005), and the Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2000).

Melissa E. Feldman is an independent curator and critic who writes regularly for *Art in America* and *frieze*.

Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre is organized by the Mills College Art Museum and supported by the Joan Danforth Art Museum Endowment.

Image: Karen Kilimnik, *Dusk*, 1996, Water-soluble oil color on canvas, 14 x 18 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and 303 Gallery

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

(Visit www.mcam.mills.edu for full details)

Opening Reception

Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 6:00-8:00 pm

Mills College Art Museum

Free shuttle service will be provided from the MacArthur Bart station. Visit mcam.mills.edu for schedule.

Monday Night Tights: Weekly Video Screening

September 24-December 3, 2012, 7:00 pm

Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College Akron Art Center

Every Monday night during the run of *Dance Rehearsal*, MCAM presents an eclectic selection of ballet movies from the 1940s to today. Visit mcam.mills.edu for full schedule and details.

***Sleeping Beauty and friends*: Talk and Video Screening**

Monday, October 29, 2012, 7:00 pm

Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College Akron Art Center

Local dance historian and UC Berkeley faculty Jenefer Johnson provides a historical context for Kilimnik's 2007 video *Sleeping Beauty and friends*.

Lecture by Melissa Feldman

Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 7:00 pm
Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College Akron Art Center

Melissa E. Feldman, curator of Dance Rehearsal, is an independent curator, art historian, and writer who regularly contributes to *Art in America* and *frieze*.

Sleeping Beauty and friends: Talk and Video Screening at the de Young

Saturday, November 17, 2012, 2:00 pm
Koret Auditorium, de Young Museum

About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. The Mills College Art Museum is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free for all exhibitions and programs unless noted. For more information, visit mcam.mills.edu

About Mills College

Nestled in the foothills of Oakland, California, Mills College is a nationally renowned, independent liberal arts college offering a dynamic progressive education that fosters leadership, social responsibility, and creativity to approximately 950 undergraduate women and 550 graduate women and men. The College ranks as one of the *Best 376 Colleges* in the country and one of the greenest colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Mills one of the top-tier regional universities in the country and second among colleges and universities in the West in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. For more information, visit www.mills.edu.

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