

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

**SUE DE BEER
*HAUNT ROOM***

A NEW ART INSTALLATION ON THE HIGH LINE

ON VIEW OCTOBER 28, 2011 – DECEMBER 4, 2011



Image Credit: Courtesy of the artist and Friends of the High Line

New York, NY (September 20, 2011) – High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line, is pleased to announce *Haunt Room*, a new public art installation by Sue de Beer located within the 14th Street Passage on the High Line. *Haunt Room* will be on view from Wednesday, October 28 to Sunday, December 4.

Opening a few days before Halloween, de Beer's *Haunt Room* is an interactive structure designed to induce haunted feelings in the viewer using infrasound, an audio tone below the threshold of human hearing. Audio tones at very low frequencies are inaudible to humans, yet they are cited as the cause of strange sensations people feel in spaces thought to be haunted—a sense of presence, a dizzy feeling, an inexplicable smell. This theory was tested by designer Usman Haque and the psychology department at Goldsmiths College during a series of experiments, which helped inspire De Beer's work for the High Line.

Building on the basic concept of the Goldsmiths experiment, de Beer will create a 15 x 15 x 9 foot structure constructed from smoke-colored Plexiglas panels that visually evoke the Seagram Building in Manhattan. As park visitors enter the structure, they encounter a 14-sided featureless chamber inspired by The Beatles' Abbey Road recording studio and the test site for the Goldsmiths experiments. The space between the interior and exterior walls will be filled with lights emanating a soft glow, and speaker cabinets emitting low-frequency audio tones outside the range of human hearing.

"In my last several years of work I have become interested in the psychological/optical response of the human body to physiological 'prompts' – things like Brion Gysin's 'Dream Machine,' or the way hypnosis can produce visions. I also find it fascinating the way that specific architecture can prompt memory, or nostalgia, remind one of lost time or time passing."

About the Artist

Sue de Beer lives and works in New York. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally in venues including the New Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, PS1/MOMA, the Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions in Los Angeles, the Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Kunst Werke, the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, and the Kunsthalle Shirn in Germany, the Neue Galerie am Landes Museum Joanneum in Austria, the MuHKA Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, and the Museum of Modern Art, Busan, in Busan, South Korea. De Beer's work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New Museum for Contemporary Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Goetz Collection. She received her M.F.A. from Columbia University in 1998.

High Line Art

High Line Art is a program presented by Friends of the High Line that commissions innovative, temporary, and site-specific artworks to provide park visitors with a unique and enriching experience and introduce contemporary artists to a wide audience. More than six million visitors have come to the High Line since the first section opened in 2009.

About the High Line and Friends of the High Line

The High Line is a public park built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line. Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line's preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under the threat of demolition. It is now the non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy. In addition to overseeing maintenance, operations, public programming, and public art for the park, Friends of the High Line works to raise the essential private funds to support more than 90 percent of the park's annual operating budget, and to advocate for the preservation and transformation of the High Line at the Rail Yards, the third and final section of the historic structure, which runs between West 30th and West 34th Streets.

Support

This High Line Art Commission is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art Commissions are made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr., with additional support from Vital Projects Fund, Inc. This program is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

For more information about the High Line Art please visit www.thehighline.org/art.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jeffrey Walkowiak and Ozgur Gungor

Blue Medium Inc.

T: +1 (212) 675-1800

F: +1 (212) 675-1855

jeffrey@bluemedium.com

ozgur@bluemedium.com

Kate Lindquist

Friends of the High Line

T: +1 (212) 206-9922

F: +1 (212) 206-9118

M: +1 (646) 259-2837

kate.lindquist@thehighline.org