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**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents photography, film, and video
by British artist Sam Taylor-Wood**

HOUSTON, TX – The British are coming to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston with the exhibition ***Sam Taylor-Wood***, on view August 2 – October 5, 2008. Organized by Margo A. Crutchfield, senior curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, this is the first major U.S. museum exhibition of work by London-based artist Sam Taylor-Wood, acclaimed for her photography and film-based installations. Her work examines the shared social and psychological conditions of the human experience, often through depictions of highly charged and emotional situations.

A leading artist of her generation, Taylor-Wood came to prominence in the mid-1990s as one of the YBA's (Young British Artists), the British art movement that propelled artists like Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin to celebrity status for their provocative and sensational works. Taylor-Wood has since become renowned for deftly manipulating the signature media of our age—photography, film, and video—into compelling psychological portraits. The exhibition brings together an outstanding selection of 29 works from the mid-1990s to the present, including photographs as well as single-channel and projected film installation work.



Sam Taylor-Wood. *Laurence Fishburne*, 2002. C-print. © The artist. Courtesy Jay Jopling/White Cube (London)

Drawing freely from a variety of sources ranging from classic opera to Renaissance and Baroque painting to Hollywood, Taylor-Wood's thought-provoking portraits and film work focus on the various states of human emotion. In her carefully staged work, her characters often grapple with mental and physical breaking points. The video *Hysteria*, 1997, portrays a woman's tumultuous descent from a state of exhilaration to a palpable anguish. The poignant and beautifully rendered *Crying Men*, 2002-2004—a series of photographs that depict Hollywood leading men such as Laurence Fishburne, Ed Harris, and Benicio del

Toro, among others, in moments of sorrow and introspection—also evokes the ambiguity of real emotion.

More recent works explore the artist's fascination with suspended states—the sense of being caught in between two worlds. In *David*, 2004, Taylor-Wood photographs soccer icon David Beckham asleep, caught somewhere in the nether world of dreams. In the photographic series *Self Portrait Suspended*, 2004, Taylor-Wood appears utterly weightless and graceful as she is caught suspended in mid air in what appears to be a quest to reach a moment of “absolute release and freedom.”



Sam Taylor-Wood. *Self Portrait Suspended IV*, 2004. C-print. © The artist. Courtesy Jay Jopling/White Cube (London)

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since her first solo show in 1995 at White Cube, one of London's leading galleries, Sam Taylor-Wood (born in London in 1967) has exhibited her work extensively in exhibitions at prominent museums, such as La Fundació “La Caixa” (Barcelona); the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam); and the Hayward Gallery (London). In 1997, Taylor-Wood received the Illy Café Prize for Most Promising Young Artist at the Venice Biennale and was nominated for the Turner Prize. Her most recent one-person exhibitions have included presentations at the STUK Kunstencentrum, Leuven, Belgium, in 2007, and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney, Australia) and the Baltic (Newcastle, England), in 2006. Taylor-Wood's work is in many prominent collections, ranging from the Tate Modern (London) to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York).

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All the following events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted.

Opening reception: ***Sam Taylor-Wood***

Friday, August 1, 2008, 6:30–9:00 PM

Celebrate the opening of work by British artist Sam Taylor-Wood, featuring an outstanding selection of almost thirty works from the mid-1990s to the present, including photographs as well as single-channel and projected film installation work.

Artists/Scholars Talk: **Douglas Fogle***

Thursday, September 4, 6:30 PM

Join Douglas Fogle, curator of contemporary art, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, and curator of the 55th Carnegie International, for a lecture on the YBA's (Young British Artists), the mid-1990s British art movement that propelled artists like Sam Taylor-Wood, Tracey Emin, and Damien Hirst to celebrity status for their provocative and sensational works. This Artists/Scholars Talk is co-presented by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in conjunction with the exhibitions *Sam Taylor-Wood* at the CAMH and *END GAME: British Contemporary Art from the Chaney Family Collection* at the

MFAH, which includes signature works by Sam Taylor-Wood.

**Special Location: Brown Auditorium, The Caroline Weiss Law Building, at the MFAH*

Artists/Scholars Talk: **Sam Taylor-Wood***

Thursday, September 25, 6:30 PM

Join featured artist Sam Taylor-Wood for a lecture on her exhibited work. *Sam Taylor-Wood: 1995 – 2007*, on view at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, features an outstanding selection of almost thirty of the British artist's photographs and room-sized video installations. This Artists/Scholars Talk is co-presented by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in conjunction with the exhibitions *Sam Taylor-Wood* at the CAMH and *END GAME: British Contemporary Art from the Chaney Family Collection* at the MFAH, which includes signature works by Sam Taylor-Wood.

**Special Location: Brown Auditorium, The Caroline Weiss Law Building, at the MFAH*

Artists/Scholars Talk: **Margo C. Crutchfield**

Saturday, September 27, 2:00 PM

Margo C. Crutchfield, senior curator of contemporary art, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, and curator of the exhibition, joins exhibiting artist **Sam-Taylor Wood** for a discussion of the British artist's exhibition *Sam Taylor-Wood*.

Family Day

Sunday, September 28, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The whole family can participate in educator-led tours of the current exhibitions and in hands-on art activities.

PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalogue published by MOCA Cleveland, with essays by Margo C. Crutchfield; Barbara London, Associate Curator Media Arts, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Linda Nochlin, Lila Acheson Wallace Professor of Modern Art at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. The catalogue is distributed by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers, Inc.,

EXHIBITION FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Exhibitions presented in The Brown Foundation Gallery are supported by the patrons, benefactors, and donors to the Museum's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron—Fayez Sarofim. Patrons—Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard; Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III ; Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim; Leigh and Reggie Smith; and Michael Zilkha. Benefactors—Marita and J.B. Fairbanks; George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation; Jackson Hicks / Jackson and Company; Elizabeth Howard; King & Spalding L.L.P.; Elisa J. Stude; and The Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc. Donors—Anonymous; Anonymous; Baker Botts, LLP; Bergner and Johnson Design; Citi Private Bank; Jana and Richard Fant; Julia and Russell Frankel; Mr. and Mrs. William Goldberg / Bernstein; Global Wealth Management; Louise D. Jamail; Karol Kreymer and Robert J. Card, M.D.; KPMG, LLP; Judy and Scott Nyquist; David I. Saperstein; Karen and Harry Susman; Mark Wawro and Melanie Gray; and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wilson.

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GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Continental is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Perspectives 162: Snow (July 17 – October 5, 2008) features interactive installations by Los Angeles-based conceptual artist Allie Bogle and Houston-based photographer Libbie Masterson. The exhibition is the first museum show for Bogle and Masterson, who have created immersive, interactive environments in which viewers are invited to either playfully engage or sit in quiet meditation.

Cinema Remixed & Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image Since 1970 (October 18, 2008 – January 4, 2009), which traces the evolution of video presentation over three decades, chronicling the critical contributions of black women artists such as María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Julie Dash, Carroll Parrott Blue, Senga Nengudi, Berni Searle, Lorna Simpson and Kara Walker to the field of contemporary art, and introduces works by emerging artists including Elizabeth Axtman, Zoë Charlton, Lauren Kelley and Xaviera Simmons.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Thursdays to 9:00 PM, and Sundays noon to 5:00 PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.

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