

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOOD-WATER-LIFE/ LUCY+JORGE ORTA

SEPTEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 16, 2012



OrtaWater-Fluvial Intervention Unit, 2005, Canadian maple wood canoe, steel structure, glass shelves, copper and plastic tubes, gloves, 4 buckets, 4 crates, 4 water drums, 2 water tanks, 2 light projectors, 4 flasks, copper tubes and taps, audio mp3, speakers, 24 OrtaWater bottles, 102 ½ x 200 ¾ x 47 ¼ in. Courtesy of the artists and Galleria Continua, San Gimignano / Beijing / le Moulin. Photography: Gino Gabrieli.

Medford, MA - Tufts University Art Gallery at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center is proud to present *Food-Water-Life/Lucy+Jorge Orta*, on view from September 6 through December 16th. A public opening reception will take place on Tuesday, September 11 from 5:30 to 8 pm, with 15-minute spotlight tours from 5:30 to 6:30. This is the first comprehensive exhibition of work by Lucy+Jorge Orta available to American museums, organized by the Tufts University Art Gallery.

The sculptures, drawings, installations and video by this French wife-husband duo, Lucy+Jorge Orta, collectively explore major concerns that define the 21st century: biodiversity, environmental conditions, climate change and exchange among peoples. At the same time, this work embodies the philosophy that steers their pioneering art practice, 'the ethics of aesthetics.' As heirs to the practice of social sculpture, formulated by Joseph Beuys in the 1960s, the Ortas' works are relics of their own function—beguiling assemblages that are the platform for the preparation of food, mechanisms that actually purify water, and elements created for a 2007 expedition to Antarctica that are part of an effort to amend the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The works in this exhibition are metaphors-in-action, constructions that perform the tasks of which they are emblematic.

These humorous, jerrybuilt contraptions are obviously not the most efficient means to purify, prepare and transport food and water, or to launch a world-wide humanitarian effort, but in their ability to actually function, albeit, awkwardly and haltingly, they gain power as works of art created to move us to awareness and action. The artists have created a unique visual language through which they tackle the major global issues affecting our lives and the precarious position of this planet. As the Orta's artwork communicates widely to audiences beyond the field of contemporary art, it demonstrates the importance of art as a creative agent for awareness and change.

Working in partnership since 2005, Lucy+Jorge Orta create, produce, and assemble their artworks and large installations together with a team of artists, designers, architects, and craftspeople. They stage on-location workshops, ephemeral interventions, residencies, and master classes, which explore the crucial themes of the contemporary world: the community, autonomy, dwelling, migration, sustainable development, and recycling. Their work has been the focus of important survey exhibitions in major museums, including: the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Modern Art Museum, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Hangar Bicocca, Milan; as well as the Venice, Havana, and Johannesburg Biennales.

After it's US premier at the Tufts University Art Gallery, ***Food-Water-Life/Lucy+Jorge Orta*** will go on to numerous venues across the United States: Zilkha Gallery, Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) Jan. 22 to Mar. 3, 2012; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) Jan. 25 to May 25, 2014; Richard E. Peeler Art Center, DePauw University (Greencastle, IN) Feb. 5 to May 7, 2015. If you are interested in hosting this exhibition, please contact Amy.Schlegel@tufts.edu.

This exhibition was curated by Judith Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan (c² | *curatorsquared*) and organized by the Tufts University Art Gallery. Partial support for the Tufts presentation has been provided by the Cultural Service of the French Consulate in Boston.

Accompanying Publication: *Lucy+Jorge Orta/Food-Water-Life* was published in 2011 by Princeton Architectural Press with contributions from Judith Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan (c² | *curatorsquared*) Hou Hanru, Ellen Luptan, and Zoe Ryan, and is available for purchase for \$40 at the Tufts University Art Gallery or directly from www.papress.com; 192 Pages, 300 color illustrations.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday, September 11, 5:30 - 8 PM
15 minute spotlight tours 5:30-6:30 PM

URBAN HOMESTEADING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 11, 6 - 8 PM
Learn how to make your own non-toxic cleaning products.

PICKLING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 16, 6 - 8 PM
Every participant will leave with a jar of pickled vegetables.

URBAN FORAGING WALKING TOUR

Saturday, October 27, 11 AM - 12:30 PM
Learn to forage plants on the Tufts Medford campus.

LUCY ORTA LECTURE

Tuesday, October 30, 12:30 PM
Alfond Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
465 Huntington Avenue

Workshops have limited space; **RSVP to hannah.swartz@tufts.edu**
For a full list of events, visit <http://artgallery.tufts.edu/calendar/>

GALLERY CONTACT: HANNAH SWARTZ

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Mexican Kitchen, 1997-2008, recycled Mexican gas cooker, steel structure, mirrors, 8 recycled fruit crates, 8 laminated Lambda photographs, various utensils, taps, 4 wheels, 78 ¼ x 71 x 23 ½ in. Photography: Bertrand Huet.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM
Thursdays 11 AM - 8 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

September 11, 5:30 - 8 PM

CLOSED FOR

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 19 - 26