

## **Feminists find the strange in the familiar at Oakville Galleries this winter**

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OAKVILLE, ON – This month, Oakville Galleries will open *Un-home-ly*, a group exhibition that considers the currency of the uncanny in contemporary feminist art practice. This exhibition will be on view at both Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens and Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square from November 27, 2010 to February 20, 2011.

**Please join Oakville Galleries for the exhibition opening on Friday, November 26 from 7:30 pm–8:30 pm at Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square (120 Navy Street), followed by a reception at Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens (1306 Lakeshore Road East) from 8:30 pm–10:30 pm.**

In his 1919 paper, “The Uncanny,” Sigmund Freud deftly charts the semantic life of the German word *Heimlich*. Once near-synonymous with *Gemütlichkeit*—the security and reassurance of the domestic, the familiar—Freud notes that the connotations of *Heimlich* have wandered linguistically over time, coming to mark the concealed, secret, or strange. Building on the work of German psychiatrist Ernst Jentsch, Freud used the notion of the *Unheimlich* (the uncanny) to capture this turn from ordinary to bizarre, and the cognitive dissonance that often accompanies it.

*Un-home-ly* works from the literal translation of *Unheimlich* to highlight the feminist tendency toward prodigious articulations of the quotidian—the domestic, the social and the corporeal—as a means to examine the architecture of contemporary life.

Drawing variously on tropes of domesticity, sexuality, comportment and art history, the participating artists share a critical investment in altering the threshold of the noticed to bring into view that which may, at first glance, seem unexceptional. In mining the tension between the familiar and the strange, the attractive and the repulsive, these artists deploy an uncanny that is visceral and critical in equal measure, raising both palpable discomfort and pressing questions about the structure and substance of gendered existence.

Artists to be exhibited include Lucy Gunning (London, UK), Mako Idemitsu (Tokyo, Japan), Suzy Lake (Toronto, Canada), Liz Magor (Vancouver, Canada), Luanne Martineau (Victoria, Canada), Shana Moulton (Brooklyn, NY), Valerie Mréjen (Paris, France), Paulette Phillips (Toronto, Canada), Pipilotti Rist (Zurich, Switzerland), Martha Rosler (Brooklyn, NY), Nicola Tyson (New York, NY), and Jin-me Yoon (Vancouver, Canada).

*Un-home-ly* is the first in a series of exhibitions at Oakville Galleries that address key themes in contemporary feminist art practices. The next, to be mounted in 2012, will explore feminist gestures towards utopia.

*Oakville Galleries is a not-for-profit charitable public contemporary art museum serving communities in Oakville, Halton Region and wider audiences nationally and internationally. Oakville Galleries acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.*

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