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Contact: Morgan Kroll, Public Relations Associate, 310-443-7016, mkroll@hammer.ucla.edu

**THE HAMMER MUSEUM PRESENTS *DREAM HOME RESOURCE CENTER*
BY OLGA KOUMOUNDOUROS
June 21 – August 18, 2013**



Photo courtesy of Olga Koumoundouros.

Los Angeles—*Dream Home Resource Center*, Olga Koumoundouros's most recent investigation of home ownership, addresses the immateriality of real estate transactions and the shift from home as emblem of the American dream to house as commodity. Inspired in part by the Hammer Museum's exhibition *A. Quincy Jones: Building for Better Living* and Jones's vision of modern architecture, Koumoundouros fast-forwards more than half a century to the present, a moment filled with far less optimism about housing in the United States.

During the course of the installation, housing specialists, activists, and citizens invested in and effected by issues surrounding home ownership and the recent economic downturn will set up temporary offices in the gallery. The experts will offer practical insight on managing bankruptcy and foreclosure while others with firsthand experiences of losing homes will share personal stories. Collectively, the group's services are intended to provide a free resource for anyone in need of housing guidance. (The Lobby Gallery is an admission-free area of the museum.)

In addition to the central convening area for the specialists and visitors, a timeline of significant moments in the history of Los Angeles real estate over the last seventy years lines the walls, alongside a blackboard of notes inscribed during a weekly performance that highlights fluctuations in interest rates, analysis of subprime mortgages, foreclosure percentages by neighborhood, housing starts, sale trends, and more. Through these elements, Koumoundouros hopes to provoke viewers and participants to consider the currency, both emotional and monetary, invested in the places in which we live.

Organized by Allison Agsten, curator, with Sohrab Mohebbi, curatorial assistant.

The Hammer Museum's Public Engagement Program is supported through a major grant from The James Irvine Foundation.

Olga Koumoundouros was born in New York, NY and lives and works in Los Angeles. Through her sculptural and community based practice, Koumoundouros investigates the implications of contemporary economic conditions on the everyday life. For her most recent project *A Notorious Possession* she occupied a foreclosed residence and transformed it into a site for discursive and aesthetic engagements, highlighting the commodification of housing in the United States. Koumoundouros received her MFA from the California Institute for the Arts. Koumoundouros' work has exhibited at venues nationally and internationally including Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City Art Center, Santa Monica Museum of Art, LA Louver, The Studio Museum of Harlem, Stadshallen Belfort, Bruges, Belgium, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX, and REDCAT among others.

ABOUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Part of the curatorial department, the Public Engagement program collaborates with artists to develop and present works that create an exchange with the institution and with visitors. Enacted both inside and outside the galleries, Public Engagement projects range from re-envisioned security guard uniforms to library and orchestra residencies. Public Engagement was established in 2009 thanks to a James Irvine Foundation Arts Innovation Fund grant.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is highlighted by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from Southern California. The museum also houses the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit www.hammer.ucla.edu.

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am–5pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UC faculty/staff, military personnel, veterans, and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free on Thursdays for all visitors. **Public programs are always free.**

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free. The Museum is easily accessible via public transportation.

Hammer Museum Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.