

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Half a Dozen from the Underground**

*A Six Channel Video Installation by*

**Kristina Faragher and Curt LeMieux**

**WHEN:** January 27 to January 30, 2010

**ARTIST RECEPTION: Saturday, January 30, 7-10PM**

**ARTIST TALK: Thursday, January 28, 7-8PM featuring Amy Scott, Curator of Visual Arts at the Autry National Center, Los Angeles.**

**WHERE:** Sophia Louisa Projects at Phantom Galleries LA – Miracle Mile  
5412 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036

Thursday – Saturday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm (and by appointment)

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**Half a Dozen from the Underground** is a six channel video installation featuring collaborative works by Kristina Faragher and Curt LeMieux from the "Twelve from the Underground" video series. Sophia Louisa Projects at Phantom Galleries Los Angeles comes to life with six separate video pieces screening simultaneously. The individual works are projected throughout the gallery and responds directly to the vacuous architecture of the space. Many of videos have significant passages of silence allowing new soundtracks emerge as time unfolds.

Half a Dozen from the Underground provides a unique perspective on historical notions of the North American West through the investigation of randomly selected individual lives. Faragher and LeMieux begin each piece in the series by picking a date from the early to mid-nineteen hundreds and a location in the United States west of the Mississippi River. The artists conduct research and agree to base the work on the life and times of first individual they find who died within the specified time and geographic parameters. Obituaries, legal records, and other historical information guide the production both conceptually and aesthetically. The imagery is deliberately meditative and often abstract or sketchy, as the artists believe that the series should function outside of typical narrative structures. The work should remain open to a host of interpretations, just as notions of history should remain in a state of flux. The artists have no interest in literal readings of historical texts but rather seek to provide a sequence of moving pictures and sounds that prompt imagination and inquiry.

The exhibition will feature an artist talk featuring Amy Scott, Curator of Visual Arts at the Autry National Center, Los Angeles.

### **ARTIST AND SPEAKER BIOS**

#### **Kristina Faragher, Artist**

Kristina Faragher has exhibited works of art individually and collaboratively in a host of media including video, installation, film, and performance. Selected venues and festivals include: The Oakland Museum, Oakland, California, The Autry National Center, Los Angeles, The REDCAT Theater, Los Angeles, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, LA Freewaves

Ninth Annual International Media Festival, Los Angeles, The Fifth Festival International de la Image in Colombia, South America, and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Minsk, Belarus. Publications include: The Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art, Yosemite Art Of an American Icon, UC Berkeley Press, and Extensions: Online Journal of Embodied Technology at UCLA.

### **Curt LeMieux, Artist**

Curt LeMieux's works have been shown nationally and internationally and appear in numerous private collections. Exhibitions and events include The Museum of Contemporary Art in Minsk, Belarus, The Sixth Festival of International Images in Manizales, Colombia, The Berkeley Video and Film Festival in Berkeley, CA, The Santa Monica Museum of Art in Santa Monica, CA, Track 16 Gallery in Santa Monica, CA, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions in Los Angeles, CA, and Sea and Space Explorations in Los Angeles, CA. LeMieux received his B.F.A. in Painting in 1998 and his M.A. in Sculpture in 1999 from the University of Wisconsin at Superior. He received his M.F.A. in Drawing and Installation in 2001 from the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA.

### **Amy Scott, Featured Speaker**

Amy Scott is the Marilyn B. and Calvin B. Gross Curator of Visual Arts at the Autry National Center. Amy has been with the Autry since 2000, where she has organized more than ten exhibitions including *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park*; and *Yosemite: Art of an American Icon*, and most recently *Maverick Art*, a survey of the museum's contemporary art collections at twenty years. Prior to joining the Autry, Ms. Scott was a curatorial associate at the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City and a curator at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe, where she organized exhibitions and catalogues on Western American and European art, ranging from Pablo Picasso to the Taos Society of Artists. Her publications include *The Taos Society of Artists: Masters and Masterworks*, *The New Mexico Painters*, and *Yosemite: Art of An American Icon* (UC Press, 2006). Ms. Scott received her B.A. in Art History from the University of Kansas, and M.A. in Art History from the University of Missouri. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Visual Studies at the University of California-Irvine.

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