

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jenny Holzer

Retro

November 4-December 18, 2010

Skarstedt Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition, *Retro*, by Jenny Holzer, which will open Thursday November 4th and be on view through December 18th. This exhibition is comprised of benches, plaques, painted signs, electronic LED signs and a *Laments* sarcophagus, covering a decade of Holzer's oeuvre from the late 1970's to the late 1980's. It aims to reintroduce the diverse use of media comprising Holzer's historically iconographic works, as well as explore the use of text and language throughout the artist's early career.

On view in the ground floor gallery is a set of five red granite benches, which incorporate text from Holzer's *Survival* series (1983-85). Installed in a circular formation, the benches reflect their original installation conceived for the rotunda of the Guggenheim in 1989. Etched with text from the *Survival* series, the benches declare authoritative slogans such as "THE BEGINNING OF WAR WILL BE SECRET."

On display in Gallery one is an installation comprised of black and white benches from the series known as *Under a Rock* and *Living*. Solid and elegant, the benches' benign appearance is contradicted by the provocative text engraved on their surfaces.

In Gallery two, the combination of LED signs from the 1980's, a *Laments* drawing and sarcophagus creates a unique contrast from the regimented rhythm of the benches in gallery one. The green text streams through the electronic signs while the monolithic sarcophagus solemnly rests on the ground.

Jenny Holzer was born in Gallipolis, Ohio in 1950. She received a BFA from Ohio University in Athens as well as an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island. Thereafter, Holzer attended the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Major exhibitions include the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, (2001), Dia Foundation, New York, (1989) and the Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York (1989). She was the first woman to represent the United States with a solo exhibition in the Venice Biennale (1990) where she was awarded the Leone d'Oro. Jenny Holzer lives and works in Hoosick, New York.

For further information, please contact Brady Doty (212) 737-2060 brady@skarstedt.com