



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

1614 Latimer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

215.735.6090
215.735.5511 fax

info@printcenter.org
www.printcenter.org

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CONTACT: ASHLEY PEEL PINKHAM 215.735.6090 x2

For You: Liliana Porter

September 9 – November 10, 2004

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 9, 2004, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk by Liliana Porter at 5:00 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA: Liliana Porter's solo exhibition, *For You*, presents a selection of prints, photographs and video. The subject matter for each image is an item from her extensive collection of souvenirs, toys, functional knickknacks and figurines. Porter places these figures in various scenarios that, with masterful simplicity, distill life into its basic elements, at once playful and tragic. The characters: a bunny, duck, bird, or penguin, are depicted true to their original size either on their own in lithographs or as a group in photographs. The figures take on personalities in a 16mm film (16 minutes). It is a series of short vignettes in which Porter creates relationships between her inert figures and infers qualities that are clearly not there in the objects themselves. Hence, the film builds up feelings of sympathy and loss in the viewer—despite the fact the plastic bird was never alive.

Liliana Porter lives and works in New York. She was raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she attended Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes and then later Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico. She held her first solo exhibition in New York in 1973. Outstanding among her group exhibitions are *Latin American Artists of the 20th Century* at MoMA, New York in 1993 and *Drama Queens - Women behind the Camera* at the Guggenheim Museum, New York in 2001. Her solo exhibitions include *The Secret Lives of Toys: Liliana Porter Photographs* held at the Phoenix Art Museum also in 2001. Liliana Porter has received the PSC-CUNY Research Award five times as well as scholarships from Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Italy, and New York Foundation for the Arts. Her work can be found in international museum collections including Museum of Modern Art, New York, Philadelphia Museum of Art, La Biblioteque National, Paris, Museum of Contemporary Graphic Art, Fredrikstad, Norway, Musée d'Art Contemporaine, Montreal, Canada among many others.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.

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