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## **INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CENTER ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKER BERNAR VENET**

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HAMILTON, New Jersey – *The International Sculpture Center (ISC)* has announced world renowned French sculptor, **Bernar Venet**, as the Keynote Speaker for the **International Sculpture Symposium: *International Dialogue*** in Auckland, New Zealand, February 11-15, 2013.

Venet, born in 1941 in the south of France and based in and New York since 1966, has been an international leader of Conceptual Art in painting, sculpture and concrete music composition for more than three decades. As early as 1974 he was teaching at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Venet is the recipient of major awards and France's highest decoration, le Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, in 2005. The artist has fulfilled numerous public art commissions in places such as Cologne, Japan, Norway, Luxembourg, New York and Chicago. Venet is today regarded as an influential contemporary artist, in 2011 he unveiled his solo exhibition at the Château de Versailles in France, making him only one of five contemporary artists to be given the honor.

The ISC has also confirmed symposium speakers Jack Becker, Chris Booth, Diana Campbell, David Cross, Hideake Fukutake, Sue Gardiner, Alan Gibbs, David Handley, Sophie Jarram, Noel Lane, Christina Lanzl, Carole Anne Meehan, Danae Mossman, Neil Plimmer, Andrew Rogers, and Chris Saines, with more speakers to be announced. ***International Dialogue*** discussions will be based on topics such as Collecting Emerging Artists and Building a Collection; International Sculpture Projects; The Artists' Process; Public Art; Up and Coming Curators; and Curatorial Practices. In addition to programming in the Auckland Art Gallery, the symposium features exclusive trips to The Farm and Connell's Bay sculpture parks, private home collection tours, and optional studio trips and gallery hops.

The ISC was founded over 50 years ago, as a conference organization and has grown into a leading membership arts organization and publisher of *Sculpture* magazine; however, symposiums and conferences remain paramount in importance. ISC conferences and symposiums draw enthusiastic and dedicated attendees that support the arts, particularly sculpture. At the symposium, attendees are able to network with one another and develop new ideas and/or solutions that help promote a supportive environment for sculpture and sculptors.

Registration for The International Sculpture Symposium is open for members, non-members, and sculpture enthusiasts alike. The Symposium will be a fantastic opportunity for attendees to experience art tours, lectures and networking opportunities while exploring beautiful New Zealand. More information on the event regarding registration, activities, travel, and more can be found on the ISC website at <http://www.sculpture.org/nz2013>. Kia Ora, we look forward to seeing you in Auckland.

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