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PRESS RELEASE

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Guston Sondin-Klausner: Laetoli Movement To be exhibited at SolwayJones February 17 – March 17, 2007



Buried Laetoli Footprint Trackway, Northern Tanzania

Laetoli Movement opens Saturday, February 17, 2007 with a reception from 6-8 pm. The exhibition continues through March 17. SolwayJones is located at 5377 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm.

Guston Sondin-Klausner, working in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Antiquities of Tanzania, presents objects and images from an ongoing body of work that engages the representation of science, colonialism and human history.

Through his travels in East Africa, the artist has collaborated with local anthropologists, museum curators and economists, researching and documenting early human paleoanthropological sites and artifacts. Relics of the British Empire and questions about the origin of life gained importance, not only as markers of inquiry and power, but also as keys to understanding the legacy of Western epistemology.

The artist chose to focus on one site in particular, the Laetoli fossil bed located near Olduvai Gorge in northern Tanzania. This site discovered by Mary Leakey in 1979, contains an early hominid footprint trail made by our ancestors 3.5 million years ago. The artist made a cast of this trail in rubber and presents it as an almost endless roll of repeating tracks folded in upon itself. This rubber wheel is part of a future project to be completed in Dar es Salaam in 2010. This work will include a 1935 Rolls Royce Phantom III used by British Colonial Authority in Tanzania. This car will be pushed through the streets of the city, pulling the rolled Laetoli footprint cast behind it.

For this exhibition the artist has chosen to display objects, artifacts and research materials relating to the Laetoli project, as well as the recreation of an experiment designed to make the basic building blocks of life. By engaging the sciences, history and culture in an expansive and generative way, this exhibition seeks to question the authority that we voluntarily give to certain structures of knowledge.

Guston Sondin-Klausner received a BFA from CalArts in 2004. Currently he teaches in the fine arts department at Otis College of Art and Design.