PRESS RELEASE
GAGOSIAN GALLERY
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GALLERY HOURS: Tue – Sat 10:00am – 5:30pm

CHRIS BURDEN: One Ton, One Kilo
Saturday, March 7 – Saturday, April 4, 2009
Opening reception for the artist: Saturday, March 7th, from 6 to 8 pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce “One Ton, One Kilo”, an exhibition by Chris Burden.

Burden juxtaposes an historical work with a new one in an ongoing exploration of the duality that underlies much of his art. Here duality resides in both the literal and figurative aspects of weights and measures, as well as in the layers of meaning embedded in the known hierarchy of materials.

In the seventies, Burden shook up the art world with his performance works including Shoot (1971) where he was shot in the arm with a rifle from five yards away, and Trans-Fixed (1974), where he was crucified on a Volkswagen Beetle. Throughout the late seventies, eighties, and beyond, Burden’s interests shifted to broader themes relating to science, ecology, technology, and politics. He produced objects and installations that evoked the rationalism of scientific and technological discourse. Memorable examples include Flying Steamroller (1996), where the massive heft of a steamroller was balanced by cement blocks to defy the forces of gravity; and Fist of Light (1992-93), his “visual metaphor for nuclear fission,” hermetically sealed inside its own room-sized structure.

Chris Burden was born in Boston, MA in 1946. He received his BFA from Pomona College at Claremont, CA and then went onto receive an MFA from the University of California, Irvine. Burden’s solo shows include the South London Gallery (2006), the Baltic Center for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2002), Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna (2002), Orange Country Museum of Art, Newport Beach (2000), the Tate Gallery, London (1999), MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts (1996), and the Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles (1992). In 2008, Burden presented both a permanent installation outside the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, entitled Urban Light and comprised of 202 antique streetlights, to inaugurate the new Broad Contemporary Art Museum, as well as a sixty-five foot skyscraper made entirely of Erector set parts, entitled What My Dad Gave Me, that was exhibited by the Public Art Fund at Rockefeller Center in New York. Burden lives and works in Topanga, CA.

For more information, please contact Michelle Pobar at mpobar@gagosian.com or 310.271.9400.