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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPENING RECEPTION: HISTORY OF STUFF
NEW WORK BY BERNARD KLEVICKAS AT THE MATERIALS FOR THE ARTS GALLERY

May 12, 2014 - The MFTA Gallery is pleased to present *History of Stuff*, a solo exhibition of new work by current artist-in-residence Bernard Klevickas. The exhibition examines the development of objects by taking apart synthetic items and reassembling the bits and pieces to evoke familiar relics from humankind's history. With a tongue-in-cheek curiosity about the everyday objects that surround us, from the tools we use and the toys we play with, the patchwork creations leap through eons of history.

The objects pay homage to art history while making pointed commentary on politics and the environment. Klevickas draws attention to often unnoticed objects that are engineered and consumed abundantly. Pieces include a hand axe created with computer mice and a replica of the Venus of Willendorf created with old holiday ornaments. Consisting of art works made from a breadth of reusable materials, the exhibition invites viewers to rethink what goes into the waste stream every day.

Klevickas will be present for the **opening reception on Friday, May 16 from 6 – 8 pm** at the MFTA Gallery, 33-00 Northern Boulevard (Floor 3) in Long Island City. The exhibition is part of the LIC Arts Open, a five-day celebration of the arts community in Long Island City, and will also feature live music by local musicians Matthew Nichols and Laura Ortman.

The exhibition will be on view through August 15, 2014, and the Gallery is free and open to the public Mondays – Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. The artist will lead a free workshop on Thursday, June 19 from 6 – 8 pm at Materials for the Arts. During this open studio, participants can learn about creative reuse, gain new skills, and make an art piece out of materials from MFTA's warehouse.

Bernard Klevickas explores the shapes, curves, and forms of different materials by manipulating metal, plastic, and Styrofoam into sculptures. His works combine industrial processes with expressionist form, and he uses tools and technology to create precise, meticulous pieces. His artistic practice incorporates overlooked items as he repurposes detritus into art. In addition to his new solo exhibition, over the summer he will also be showing a sculptural work made from abandoned bicycles on Governors Island, building 19B, Nolan Park with the Sculptors Guild. With previous experience working as an arts fabricator for artists like Frank Stella and Louise Bourgeois, he will be speaking about fair labor and creating art for other artists' at the Queens Museum's Open Engagement on Saturday, May 17.

Materials for the Arts (MFTA), the City's premier municipal reuse center, is a program of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Departments of Sanitation and Education. MFTA collects a wide variety of materials donated by businesses and individuals and makes them available for free to nonprofit and civic organizations with arts programs and public schools from its 30,000 square foot warehouse facility in Long Island City. **Friends of Materials for the Arts** is MFTA's official nonprofit partner and supports initiatives, events, classes, and programs that enable the NYC community to see and experience creative reuse up close.



The MFTA Gallery, located at the entrance to the MFTA warehouse, presents artwork made with salvaged, found, and reusable materials and objects. The **MFTA Artist-in-Residence (MFTAair) program** provides an artist with studio space in the MFTA warehouse in Long Island City, as well as the opportunity to display and exhibit new work inspired by the eclectic inventory of donated materials. The Gallery and MFTAair promote creative reuse and inspire MFTA member organizations further explore the creative potential of items available in the warehouse. Learn more at www.nyc.gov/mfta.



Bernard Klevickas, *Ode to 2001 a Space Odyssey*, 2014.
Made during artist's residency at Materials for the Arts.

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