

ANIMAL INSTINCT

Constructions by Arnaldo Morales

at

art sites

651 West Main Street (Route 25), Riverhead, New York 11901 631- 591-2401

<http://www.artsitesgallery.com>

In the South Gallery: **Darlene Charneco, Gabriella Lewenz, and Ellen Wiener**

Date: May 24 – June 29, 2008

Reception May 24, 5-7 PM

Gallery Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 12-5 PM.

For group tour information and additional hours call 631-591-2401

Animal Instinct, a new body of work by Arnaldo Morales, includes freestanding and wall-mounted participatory sculptures. Highly polished futuristic hybrids, Morales's work juxtaposes found and fabricated aluminum or stainless steel parts with electric and pneumatic systems. These works reference diverse zoomorphic response mechanisms while exploring physical and emotional human interactions. Visitors who engage and trigger the works will be drawn into their functioning, becoming a necessary part of the work through their own responses. Although based on nature's designs, the efficient beauty of the wild transforms into pathology once brought into our civilized environment. Through play, **Animal Instinct** both reveals and questions our baser tendencies.

ARNALDO MORALES

Statement

"I am fascinated with the physicality of "low-tech" manual devices and mechanical systems. I am aroused by their shapes, sounds, and gestures, which are beautiful descriptions of their own functions. Industrial materials —stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, plastics, and rubbers— seduce me. Artifacts of disappearing industry, in their debris I find strange and beautiful shapes that allude to sexual operations, violent actions, mysterious purposes. Their potential triggers my thought process.

My work is interactive. My pieces look dangerous, but once you understand what they do, I mean for you to interact with them. In fact, a collaborative audience is the most important component of my installations. My work seeks to build a dialogue with the viewer through complicity. I try to give you something that I know you want, but in the shape of a dare. I play with the meanings of fear, desire, ambition, and pleasure. I explore the concepts of crime and punishment, and the seven deadly sins. I try to provoke you, confront you, disarm you, fascinate you, panic you, and then embrace you. You have to do something, give something, meet me halfway. It's your responsibility, too.

In a certain way, my art is aggressively political in that it always, on some level, speaks to the basic problems between people. With each scientific advance, inevitable social and political alienation has resulted. My work notes the implications of an ever-changing technology by reinscribing primary human interactions. However, until a viewer activates my work, it is just beautiful but ultimately meaningless sculpture."

Bio:

Arnaldo Morales was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1967. He received his BFA from Escuela de Artes Plásticas, San Juan. After moving to New York in 1995, he now lives and works on Long Island. Recent solo exhibitions were presented in Miami, San Juan, and Madrid. Morales has exhibited internationally, including Exit Art , White Box and PS I-MoMA (all NYC); Rice University Art Gallery (Houston, TX); Galería de la Raza (San Francisco, California); Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (San Juan, PR); Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro (Nuoro, Sardinia, Italy); Museu de les Ciències Príncipe Felipe (Valencia, Spain); Centro Cultural de Arte Contemporaneo (México DF, México); The Living Art Museum (Reykjavik, Iceland). Morales has received numerous awards, including a John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Award; New York Foundation for the Arts Award, and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Award. His commissions have included Franconia Sculpture Park, Shafer, MN, and the Public Art Fund, NY.