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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Presented by FOR-SITE** in partnership with Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, *Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang at The Guardhouse* opens on **Saturday, June 24, 2023 with an outdoor reception from 12-2 p.m.**

**Celebrating 20 years as a non-profit dedicated to the presentation of art about place**, FOR-SITE presents its second of three installments this year as part of **The Guardhouse Program**. By debuting a sculptural installation and new photographs by **Judith Selby Lang** and **Richard Lang** beckoning us to confront the consequences of our actions and asking us to question our role in the overwhelming accumulation of thermoplastic junk, **FOR-SITE** strengthens its commitment to supporting site-specific interventions addressing the most pressing issues of our time.



**For the first time after nearly a quarter century of collaboration, the artists are showcasing “all of it” – a sampling of every color, size, shape and use category from their two-ton beach-found plastic collection, including at least one object dating back to 1948—**alongside photographs highlighting toy soldiers and action figures, installed in a former military guard station **at the main entrance to Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture** open to the public 24 hours a day from **June 24 through August 31, 2023.**

Viewable through the windows, this new installation invites us to see our own consumer choices reflected in a motley assortment of ubiquitous and one-of-a-kind plastic objects from Marin-based artists Judith Selby Lang and Richard Lang’s two-and-a-half decades worth of collected ocean plastic. For the first time, the artists are showcasing a sampling of the full range of their materials, presenting “all of it” for public audiences to see. This assorted plastic washed in from the Pacific Ocean onto Kehoe Beach, a

.6-mile stretch located within the Point Reyes National Seashore, just north of San Francisco. According to the artists, objects incorporated into their new sculptural work on view traveled the open ocean from as far away as Japan and China. Some are lentil-sized, while at least one, a sunbleached gray-black buoy, is the size of an adult human. A toy oil truck on view dates back to 1948. Created shortly after WWII ended in 1945, this object marks the beginning of a proliferation in plastic production, when injection-molding machines made possible the mass-production of products that we continue to live with today. **Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang at The Guardhouse** offers a snapshot of this production timeline, while also providing insight into the scope of their collecting.

Adeptly employing plastic as both material and subject, the Langs' sculptural and photographic works generously fill an otherwise empty building, proffering the youthful optimism and imagination as a strategy for encouraging us to engage in combating plastic pollution on a global scale. Averaging roughly three quarters of a century in age gives the Langs broad perspective as they share their prescient thoughts that we are living in what "is surely an 'all hands on deck' moment for humanity." As the Langs call attention to the mounting problem that their collection affirms and utilize this found plastic material "as it is, without artifice," they provide a model for action. As Richard Lang writes, "Our effort is just one beach, two people, shoulders-to-the-wheel for 24 years, trying to parse the daunting facts of plastic pollution." And according to Judith, "Langs don't quit."

In "all of it" visitors will encounter toothbrushes, bottle caps and flip-flops and other ocean plastic alongside new photographic prints, portraits of toy soldiers and other action figures. While their installation is playful by design, Richard notes that it is "fitting to acknowledge what happened here," referencing that the Historic Landmark District where their work is sited once served as the embarkation point for 1.65 million soldiers headed to war in the Pacific. Weathered children's toys, which are beloved by generations, are positioned at The Guardhouse "*en garde*, at the ready, to fend off the onslaught of plastic." These two-inch action figures recall the military history of Fort Mason, a suiting place to signal an environmental battle of epic proportions.

## About FOR-SITE

Established in 2003 by **Founding Executive Director Cheryl Haines**, **FOR-SITE** is dedicated to the creation, presentation, and understanding of art about place. Highly acclaimed, major FOR-SITE projects include: *Lands End* at the former Cliff House (2022-2023), *Sanctuary* (2017-2018); *Home Land Security* (2016); *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz* (2014-2015); *International Orange* (2012), a group show honoring the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; and land-art installations by Andy Goldsworthy currently on view in the Presidio, including *Spire* (2008 ) and *Wood Line* (2011).

## About The Guardhouse Program

FOR-SITE's **The Guardhouse Program** is designed to support three selected artists annually, each of whom will activate the former military guard station with a temporary art installation responding to the natural and cultural significance of the site and its surrounding area. FOR-SITE launched the program in January 2023, presenting ***Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse*** (January 14 - April 23, 2023) curated by **Lisa Ellsworth**, and announcing an open call for proposals through which a jury selected **Judith Selby Lang** and **Richard Lang**, as well as **Tanja Geis**, to develop installations for The Guardhouse in 2023.

## About the Artists

For nearly a quarter century, collaborating artists Judith Selby Lang and Richard Lang have collected found plastic objects such as toothbrushes, empty containers, and toys, all washed in from the Pacific Ocean onto Kehoe Beach, a .6-mile stretch at Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California. The artists employ this two-ton collection of thermoplastic junk as both material and the subject of their work, which has been featured in over 70 exhibitions, and collected nationally and internationally.

***Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang at The Guardhouse* is presented by FOR-SITE ([for-site.org](http://for-site.org)) in partnership with Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture ([fortmason.org](http://fortmason.org)).** The Guardhouse Program is made possible thanks to generous support from the ARB Fund.

## About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC)

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the

historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

IMAGE: **Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang**, *All of it (a sampling of collected material spanning nearly a quarter century)*, 2023; found plastic objects; dimensions variable; image courtesy of the artists

## **FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS:**

### **FOR-SITE presents *Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang at The Guardhouse:***

Collaborating artists of nearly 25 years activate a 100-square-foot former military guard station at Fort Mason Center, for the first time showcasing “all of it” —a sampling objects from from their two-ton beach-found plastic collection—alongside new photographs highlighting toy soldiers and action figures that evoke the past and signal an environmental battle of epic proportions.

**Installation dates:** Saturday, June 24 - Sunday, August 31, 2023

**Location:** The Guardhouse, Fort Mason Center, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94123

**Hours:** Open daily, 24 hours a day, viewable through the windows

**Admission:** Free

**Information:** [for-site.org](http://for-site.org)

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