



HUDSON VALLEY CENTER for CONTEMPORARY ART

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Two New Outdoor Sculpture Installations by Marko Remec at Peekskill Project V

September 29, 2012 - June 28, 2013

Public reception: Sunday September 30, 5-7pm



Peekskill, NY – The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVCCA) is pleased to present two new outdoor sculpture installations by New York City-based artist, Marko Remec. Featuring suspended bicycles and a dizzying array of convex mirrors, Remec's *Totem (Up/Down)* and *Would That I Wish For (Broken Totem)* will be unveiled on September 29 as part of the [Peekskill Project V](#) initiative, a citywide art festival devoted to bringing cutting edge contemporary art out of the museum and into the community. Selected by HVCCA founder and director Livia Straus and a team of curators, the sculptures—produced especially for the exhibition—will be on view at sites along Main Street in Peekskill through June 28, 2013.

Marko Remec visualizes the oft-invisible aspects of the global political machine—threat, negotiation, and compromise. Warping function and re-contextualizing form, Remec distorts common expectations of usage and scale to incisively examine systems of power and the ways in which they affect our perceptions and realities. In the works created for Peekskill Project V, Remec uses flag and utility poles, both regular fixtures of the urban and suburban landscape. Adhering readymade objects to the poles, he transforms them into contemporary totems. While indigenous totem poles of the Pacific Northwest are frequently associated with religious ceremony, they typically performed a social rather than spiritual role—recording important

events, familiar legends, and clan lineages.

Referencing these functions, Remec's *Totem (Up/Down)* features two bicycles suspended in an impossible position on the flagpole outside the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art—the bicycles temporarily displacing the stars and stripes. For Remec, the bicycle represents the “American dream,” the once tenable promise of owning a home on a suburban street quiet and safe enough for the children to ride bikes. With the dream seemingly dashed for a generation by the actualities of rampant unemployment, subprime mortgages, and crippling debt, Remec's bikes assume a disorientating stance. Are they coming or going and has the progress of one been completely canceled by the other? *Totem (Up/Down)* is on display outside the HVCCA, 1701 Main Street.

Similarly baffling, *Would That I Wish For (Broken Totem)* is composed of 120 acrylic and steel convex mirrors covering two adjacent pieces of a split utility pole. The mirrors, whose usual objective is safety and security, have been rendered impotent by their sheer volume, engaging the viewer either in a narcissistic game with himself or a dizzying view of the world around him. *Would That I Wish For (Broken Totem)* is on display in the City Lot on Main Street, between Spring and Hadden Streets.

For more about Peekskill Project V, including a complete list of participating artists and events throughout the exhibition, please visit hvcca.org.

To learn more about the artist, please visit markoremec.com.

Pictured above: Left, *Would That I Wish For (Broken Totem)*, 2012. Evenly split 25-foot utility pole and 120 convex acrylic and stainless steel 8-inch safety mirrors. Right, *Totem (Up/Down)*, 2012. 25-foot aluminum flagpole and two bicycles.