

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Wednesday - Saturday, 1-6 pm  
Free Admission; Tours available

Press images are available on request.

## **Slought Foundation Announces Maria Chevska's "Vera's Room"**

Slought Foundation announces the opening of *Vera's Room* (September 10 - October 22, 2005), an exhibition in the gallery by British visual artist Maria Chevska. The artist will be present for the public reception on October 8th, 2005 from 6:30-8:30pm, which will also serve as the book release for "Vera's Room [the art of maria chevska]," forthcoming from Black Dog Publishing, London in October 2005. The exhibition and publication "Vera's Room" includes a text by French feminist Hélène Cixous, who will also be present and will give a public talk entitled "Cities" on the evening of the opening at 5:00pm. This program has been organized by Jean-Michel Rabaté and Aaron Levy.

Maria Chevska's work, drawing on both painting and sculpture, examines a number of interrelated issues, including the implications of language upon the visual world and the narrative dimension of the visual. In the installation on view at Slought Foundation, her interest in collectivity and narrative informs an exploration of displacement and exile and comments on the figure of the stranger in contemporary life. The installation is of varying sizes and components and has been installed according to a series of prescriptive procedures determined by the artist and enacted by the curators. It has both 'real' objects in it—functional furniture, for example—and a number of 'imaginary' sculptures made up of both found and made objects. The objects, simple forms made from cloth or paper rendered solid in kaolin, look familiar and functional; however, they are not quite the same as the articles they resemble. This uncanny and abstract quality is given further tension in the installation due to the intimate setting and a sense of transient domesticity. This in turn suggests the fragile and nomadic existence of a stranger who achieves visibility on account of his or her sheer resourcefulness.

*This exhibition program is made possible in part through the generous support of the British Council USA.*

### About the Artist

Maria Chevska was born in London, and lives and works in London. She is the Head of Painting at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at the University of Oxford. She recently exhibited "Reading Room," an installation with Simon Morley, at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in London (May 2005). She has also exhibited in The Wetterling Gallery (Stockholm), Maison de la Culture d'Amiens (Amiens), Marianne Hollenbach Gallery (Stuttgart), Kunstpunkt Berlin (Berlin), L'Artothèque de Caen (France), Maison des Arts de Bagneux (France), Stadtische Galerie im Albstadt (Germany), and Kunsthaus Kaufbeuren (Germany). She is represented by Andrew Mummery Gallery (London) and Philippe Casini Gallery (Paris). *Vera's Room [the art of maria chevska]* is forthcoming in October 2005 from Black Dog Publishing in London and features the collaboration with Helene Cixous.

## Slought Foundation Announces “Cities” – A Public Seminar by Hélène Cixous

Slought Foundation announces a public seminar by Hélène Cixous (October 8th, 2005). The seminar is free and open to the general public, and has been organized in conjunction with “Vera’s Room,” a concurrent exhibition in the gallery by British visual artist Maria Chevaska (see attached press release). Cixous and Chevaska will both be present for the public reception to follow on October 8th, 2005 from 6:30-8:30pm. Organized by Jean-Michel Rabaté and Aaron Levy.

### About the Presenter

Hélène Cixous (born June 5, 1937 in Oran, Algeria) is a French feminist writer, poet, playwright, philosopher and literary critic. Cixous is an extraordinarily prolific author who exemplifies a rich vein of women’s writing in contemporary France. She has been working since 1984 on several theater productions directed by Ariane Mnouchkine with “Le Théâtre du Soleil” in Vincennes. A selection of recent titles by Cixous available in English include: *The Third Body* (Hydra Books/Norhtwestern University Press, 1999), *Firstdays of the Year* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999), *Rootprints* (London : Routledge, 1997), *The Terrible but unfinished Story of Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia* (University of Nebraska Press, 1994), *The Name of Oedipus* (University of Michigan Press, 1991), *Stigmata* (London : Routledge, 1998), *The Exile of James Joyce* (John Calder, 1976), and many others. She was one of the founding members of the University of Vincennes (Paris VIII) in 1968, where she helped create the Doctorate in Women’s Studies in 1974. After completing a thesis on James Joyce in 1968, she specialized in English literature. With Michel Foucault, she created the Group Information-Jail and worked with Jacques Derrida at the Collège International de Philosophie in Paris.

*This program is made possible in part through the generous support of the “Mission du livre” program of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Women’s Studies / the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Pennsylvania.*

Slought Foundation, a non-profit organization, encourages new futures for contemporary life through curatorial practices that resist the market-driven orientation and drive to permanence of today’s institutions. Since opening in Philadelphia in 2002, we have organized around 300 exhibits, discursive events, concerts, and trade publications, as well as a significant internet presence featuring 200 hours of online recordings. We borrow our name from “slough,” a wetland or marshy environment connecting species in a distributed and organic network. Exhibitions at Slought Foundation are always free to the public.