

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

1834 E. 123rd St. CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

PH 216.229.6527 FAX 216.229.8044

www.sculpturecenter.org

News Release

August 23, 2004

Contact: Deirdre Lauer, Exhibitions, 216.229.6527

Kirk Coffey: *U.S.B.S. 2004 Cleveland Collection* Exhibition at The Sculpture Center in the *Window to Sculpture Series*

The Sculpture Center will feature sculptor **Kirk Coffey**, with a solo exhibition entitled ***U.S.B.S. 2004 Cleveland Collection*** from October 1 through October 29, 2004. The free, public reception with the artist is Friday, October 1 from 5pm to 9pm. Irina Koukhanova, sculptor, and assistant professor of sculpture at Cleveland State University, will lead a gallery talk with the artist during the reception at 6:15pm.

Kirk Coffey is a sculptor and photographer with a humanities background. He creates work inspired by his exploration of anthropological and cultural influences and dilemmas. In *U.S.B.S. 2004 Cleveland Collection*, Coffey creates a fictional premise: he's working under the auspices of the "U.S. Biological Survey" (U.S.B.S.) to collect and display biological and genetic specimens of organic material. The collection serves as a current record of "artistic science" and "genetic-baseline" for future reference. He invites gallery visitors to participate by donating and displaying their own sample of genetic material from October 1 through October 29. Cotton swabs, test tubes, and directions are provided by the artist, courtesy of U.S.B.S..

Coffey uses backlighting and 650 glass test tubes, the number necessary to line the perimeter of the gallery space, to display collected specimens from plants, animals, and humans, acquired in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Specimens are collected from August through October 2004, in concurrence with the growing, seeding, and dying season of plant life.

Coffey was raised in Sacramento, California, and is currently in transition from being a Cleveland, Ohio resident to a doctorate student in London, England. He has been accepted to an intensive 3-year program to earn a Mphil/Phd in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, University of London, England. He will begin the program immediately after the opening reception at The Sculpture Center on October 1. Coffey received his MH in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2003 and a BFA in Photography in 2000, both from University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado. He received an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant in 2000, and a Board of Regents Grant in 2000. Prior to his solo show at The Sculpture Center, he has shown in solo and group exhibitions in Massillon, Ohio, and Denver, Colorado.

About The Sculpture Center

The Sculpture Center gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm. Admission, reception with the artist, and parking are free. The Sculpture Center is handicapped accessible. The Sculpture Center is a not-for-profit arts organization. Exhibiting Window to Sculpture artists receive 100% of sales.

Exhibition information and photos available at: www.sculpturecenter.org/downloads/wts0405season.html

- END -