IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham
B1 2HS
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709
WEBSITE. www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892

Press Release

# Kristoffer Myskja
# *Machine that uses 1000 years to shut itself down*
# 4 May – 17 July 2011
# Tower Room, Ikon Gallery

Ikon presents *Machine that uses 1000 years to shut itself down* (2006), a work by emerging Norwegian artist Kristoffer Myskja. The machine in question runs for no reason except that, after one thousand years, it will turn itself off. Powered by light, a sequence of geared wheels rotate increasingly slowly, eventually imperceptibly, in order to reach the off switch. Despite a complete lack of dramatic effect, the proposition of this apparatus is compelling.

*Machine that uses 1000 years to shut itself down* is as elegant as it is useless. It suggests that its fragile beauty and thought provoking nature are enough and perhaps antidotes in a world too informed by ideologies of functionalism. Ikon's Tower Room is an ideal location, transforming this work into an altarpiece that quietly challenges any tendency towards the protestant work ethic. It becomes a place for reflection on the possibilities of wonderful pointlessness.

Kristoffer Myskja lives and works in Oslo, Norway. He graduated from the Art Academy in Oslo 2008, finishing the BA programme he started in Trondheim in 2005. Myskja's works are mainly in the kinetic/mechanical tradition, with an elegant and contemporary touch. He has participated in a large number of exhibitions in Norway and has received several awards.

Ends.

## Note to Editors:

1. Press Preview, Tuesday 3 May 2011, 12-8pm
2. A selection of images is shown below
3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Free entry.

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4. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Birmingham City Council and Arts Council West Midlands. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.

5. For more information and images please contact Helen Stallard, Press and PR Consultant, on 0774 033 9604 or h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk

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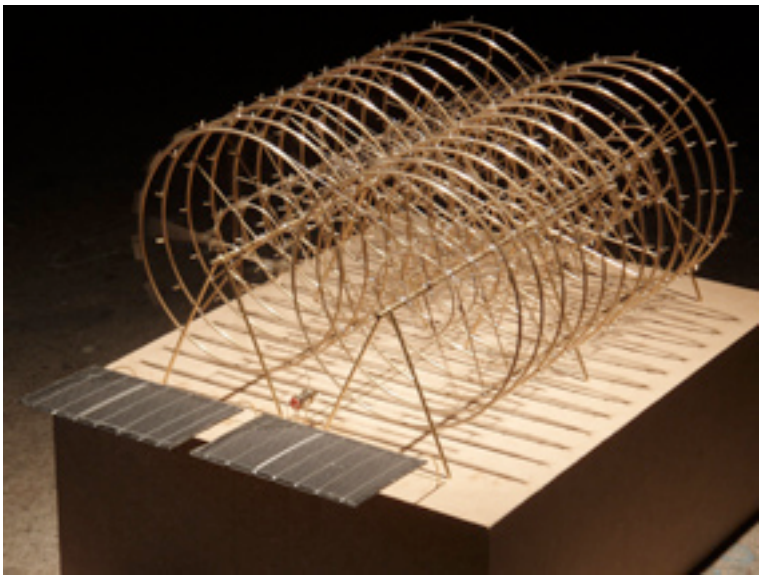
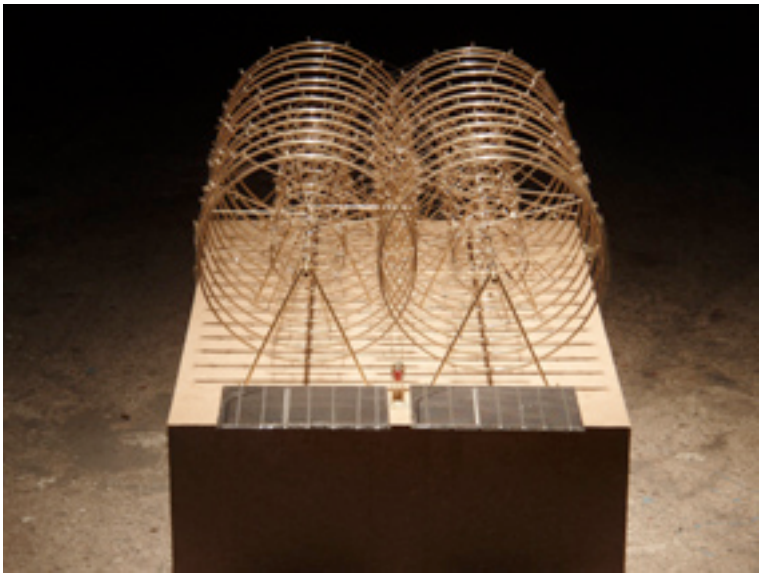
|  | Kristoffer Myskja<br>*Machine that uses 1000 years to shut itself down*<br>(2006) |
|  | Kristoffer Myskja<br>*Machine that uses 1000 years to shut itself down*<br>(2006) |