

# ELEVATION 1049

AVALANCHE

GSTAAD 2017

FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 19

Press release  
Gstaad, December 8, 2016  
for immediate release

**ELEVATION 1049 – AVALANCHE**  
**SITE-SPECIFIC WORKS IN AND ABOVE GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND**  
On view: February 3 – March 19, 2017

**Gstaad, Switzerland** and **New York, NY – Elevation 1049** is pleased to announce its next winter iteration, **Avalanche**. Avalanches, their power, dynamics and the unexpected are the curatorial point of departure for this site specific exhibition curated by **Neville Wakefield** and **Olympia Scarry**.

Launching over the weekend of **3-5 February 2017**, the exhibition will feature an international program of sculpture, performance, video and sound installations. Offsetting the ephemeral and transitive nature of these performances will be a number of sculptural and site-specific interventions created by internationally established and emerging artists. Elevation 1049: Avalanche is produced and supported by the **LUMA Foundation**, with additional support by the founding patrons and further private donors.

Participating artists so far include: **Allora & Calzadilla, Cecilia Bengolea, Michaël Borremans, Douglas Gordon & Morgane Tschiember, Yngve Holen, Ryoji Ikeda, Sarah Morris, Thomas Schütte, Superflex, Tatiana Trouvé & Grace Hall, and Nicole Wermers**, amongst others.

Inspired by *Avalanche*, the 1970's magazine closely associated with post-minimalist, post-studio conceptual artists in the United States and Europe – which also lends its name to this project – this year's iteration relies on different interpretations of land art, ultimately replacing content about art with direct communication with the artists through their work and thought.

ELEVATION 1049 – AVALANCHE will be formed around two very different impulses: the first to create sculptures that like the mountains themselves will endure over time, the second to create an artist-driven event that like the snow itself is inherently unstable and subject to sudden change comprising of video, sound and performance.

The sculptural aspect of the show - associated with the structure and stability of the mountains themselves - will continue the tradition started with the 2014 iteration of Elevation 1049 "Between Heaven and Hell" of large scale site specific sculpture created in response the landscape of Gstaad and its surroundings. These works will remain in Gstaad and be accessible to the public for the duration of the winter season.

"We are thrilled to embark on our next presentation with ELEVATION 1049 – AVALANCHE," says co-curator Neville Wakefield. "The curatorial impulse of this winter's show is born of the unexpected and the shape-shifting interplay between form and formlessness – there is no better place than Gstaad to display these dramatic maneuvers."

The anti-monumental aspect of the show – associated with the instability and temporarily transformative effects of snow - will consist of a series of artists' performances and sound installations that will take place over the course of a long weekend. Each performance will involve an intense but temporary transformation of a type of space familiar to Gstaad: whether the unbounded space of outdoors from the glacier, lake or forest or the contained interior spaces that range from a barn to the Palace Hotel to to the bunkers of the secret army.

"The sublime and unstable nature of the project's environment reflects and refracts simultaneously the sound and performative elements of this year's iteration," says co-curator Olympia Scarry. "We are looking forward to witnessing the elemental impact on the direction of the works"

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## **ELEVATION 1049 – AVALANCHE**

February 3 – March 19, 2017

Opening Weekend: February 3–5, 2017

Gstaad (various locations), Switzerland

[www.elevation1049.org](http://www.elevation1049.org)

**FREE admission**

**ABOUT NEVILLE WAKEFIELD** — Neville Wakefield is a curator, creative director, and writer based in New York City. Wakefield is the co-curator and the co-founder of Elevation 1049. He has served as the senior curatorial advisor for MoMA PS1 and curator of Frieze Projects. Curatorial projects include; Matthew Barney: Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail at the Schaulager, Xenophilia (Love of the unknown) MoCA Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles As well as being co-founder and co-curator of Elevation 1049 He is also co-founder of Destricted, a series of films that address the issue of sexuality in art, served as the creative director for Tar magazine, as well as more recently the Creative Director of Playboy Enterprises. In October 2015 he was appointed Artistic Director of Desert X, a site-specific show taking place in the Palm Springs area in 2017.

**ABOUT OLYMPIA SCARRY** — Olympia Scarry is a Swiss artist living in New York. Scarry is the co-curator and the co-founder of Elevation 1049. She is the granddaughter of famed children's book author and illustrator Richard Scarry who resided in Gstaad. Scarry received her BFA in Psychology at The American University, in Paris and her Master's degree in Art at NYU. Her first solo show was held at the Conduits Gallery in Milan and group exhibitions include Barbican in London, MOMA Baku, and the Venice Biennale Collateral.

**ABOUT LUMA FOUNDATION** — The LUMA Foundation was established in 2004 by Maja Hoffmann in Switzerland to support the activities of independent artists and pioneers, as well as institutions working in the fields of visual arts, photography, publishing, documentary, and multimedia. The foundation commissions, produces and supports challenging artistic projects combining a particular interest in environmental issues, human rights, education, and culture in the broadest sense.

The Foundation engages in long-term collaborations with institutions like the New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York), CCS Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, New York), Serpentine Gallery and Tate Modern (London), Kunsthalle Zürich and the Fotomuseum Winterthur (Switzerland), as well as arts festivals and biennials around the world.

The LUMA Foundation and LUMA Arles, the executive entity founded in 2014 in support of the project in Arles (France), are currently developing an experimental cultural centre that brings together artists, researchers, and creators from every field to collaborate on multidisciplinary works and exhibitions. Located south of Arles' historic city center, the project repurposes the industrial ruins of a 10-acre rail depot and introduces a new public park at the Parc des Ateliers.

More info: [www.luma-arles.org](http://www.luma-arles.org)

**RECORD OF THE SHOW:** ELEVATION 1049 – AVALANCHE will be recorded in both images and sounds. It will exist both on the website but also as a limited edition box set of 7" vinyl singles recording both in sound and on the liner notes each of the performances that take place over the weekend. This box set will be created in collaboration with Vinyl Factory and will function as the catalog for the show. In philosophy and design it will harken back to Avalanche magazine and the moment at which art and artists broke with traditional formats and created contexts of their own. An abbreviated digital version will be freely available on the elevation website, the box set available for purchase and a limited edition made exclusively for patrons.

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