

## BARBARA GALLUCCI AND THE ART OF THE KNOCK-OFF

# THIS IS NOT A COUCH

BY MICAH MALONE

**B**arbara Gallucci makes knock-offs. Transforming mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century furniture landmarks like Le Corbusier's Petit Confort Sofa, 1928, and George Nelson's Platform Bench, 1946, into sculptures, she presents not a new sublime object but a more common one with familiar Home Depot plywood and aluminum piping. While the art of replication may still be capable of becoming sublime, what is important about this reversal is that the original sublime object becomes a site of discourse and not strictly a fetishized commodity.

Gallucci's quest in these works is complex: She's attempting to recreate the "authentic" in her knock-offs while simultaneously displacing Modern myths of progress and utopia. In magnifying the scale of Nelson and Corbusier's furniture by half, and through the use of unexpected materials, Gallucci doesn't recreate these Modern icons with manic nostalgia or longing. On the contrary, the displacement caused by her sculptures confirms that any ideal—any "original"—whether furniture, paintings, women, or Prada handbags, are ideal only in our imaginations, and not through any intrinsic value of their own. ■

YOU CAN SEE BARBARA GALLUCCI'S WORK IN AN UPCOMING EXHIBITION, *REVISITED*, AT BAKALAR GALLERY, BOSTON, MA, JANUARY 2005.



Photos courtesy of the artist

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*Le Grand Confort (couch)*, 2004, plywood and aluminum, 40 x 76 x 36 inches