



For Immediate Release
July 2009

ICI announces the premiere of the traveling exhibition

Experimental Geography

A traveling exhibition of contemporary artworks that explores the intersection of geographical study and artistic experience of the earth

Curated by Nato Thompson
Organized and circulated by iCI
(Independent Curators International),
New York

Touring September 2008 through
January 2011

ICI announces the tour of

Experimental Geography, an

exhibition that explores the distinctions



Ilana Halperin, *Boiling Milk (Solfataras)*, 2000, C-print on board

between geographical study and artistic experience of the earth, as well as the juncture where the two realms collide and possibly make a new field altogether. The exhibition presents a panoptic view of this new practice through a wide range of mediums including interactive computer units, sound and video installations, photography, sculpture, and experimental cartography created by 19 artists or artist teams from six countries as well as the United States.

Experimental Geography, curated by Nato Thompson and organized and circulated by iCI, premiered at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, on September 19 where it was on view through December 12, 2008. The exhibition will travel through January 2011 with presentations at the Rochester Art Center, Rochester, Minnesota, February 7 – April 18, 2009; The Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 28 – September 20, 2009; The Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg, PA October 10, 2009 – January 31, 2010; The Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine, February 21 – May 30, 2010; and Museum London, London, Ontario, October 9, 2010 – January 2, 2011. Additional venues will be announced.

Geography can involve the study of specific histories, sites, and memories. Every estuary, landfill, and cul-de-sac has a story to tell. The task of the geographer is to alert us to what is directly in front of us, while the task of the experimental geographer—an amalgam of scientist, artist, and explorer—is to do so in a manner that deploys aesthetics, ambiguity, poetry, and a dash of empiricism.



Trevor Paglen, *The Salt Pit* [Shomali Plains northeast of Kabul, Afghanistan], 2006, Chromogenic print

The manifestations of “experimental geography” (a term coined by geographer Trevor Paglen in 2002) run the gamut of contemporary art practice: sewn cloth cities that spill out of suitcases, bus tours through water treatment centers, performers climbing up the sides of buildings, and sound art of the breaths exhaled in running Boston’s evacuation route. In the hands of contemporary artists, the study of humanity’s engagement with the earth’s surface becomes a riddle best solved in experimental

fashion. The exhibition presents a panoptic view of this new practice, through a wide range of mediums including sound and video installations, photography, sculpture, and experimental cartography.

The approaches used by the artists featured in **Experimental Geography** range from a poetic conflation of humanity and the earth to more empirical studies of our planet. Ilana Halperin melds immediate physical and personal actions with geologic contexts; she offers poetic conflations of differing fields of interest. Creating projects that are more empirically minded, the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI), a research organization, explores the nature and extent of human interaction with the earth’s surface, embracing a multidisciplinary approach to fulfilling its mission. Using skill sets culled from the toolbox of geography, the work re-familiarizes the viewer with the overlooked American landscape including man-made islands, submerged cities, traffic in Los Angeles, and the broadcast antennas in the San Gabriel Mountains, as well as other details drawn from everyday experience.

About the Curator

Nato Thompson is a curator at Creative Time, as well as a writer and activist. Among his public projects for Creative Time are *Waiting for Godot in New Orleans*, a project by Paul Chan in collaboration with The Classical Theatre of Harlem, and *Mike Nelson: A Psychic Vacuum*. Thompson was formerly a curator at MASS MoCA, where his exhibitions included *The Interventionists: Art in the Social Sphere* and *Ahistoric Occasion: Artists Making History*.

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue co-published by ICI and Melville House Publishing. The catalogue includes essays by curator Nato Thompson, art historian Jeffrey Kastner, and artist Trevor Paglen; artist's statements; and brief texts on forms of artistic practice.

Artists In the Exhibition

Francis Alÿs

AREA Chicago

The Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI)

the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

kanarinka (Catherine D'Ignazio)

e-Xplo

Ilana Halperin

Julia Meltzer and David Thorne

Lize Mogel

Multiplicity

Trevor Paglen

Raqs Media Collective

Ellen Rothenberg

Spurse

Deborah Stratman

TERMINAL
ISLAND



The Center for Land Use Interpretation, *Untitled (image and text panels depicting the programs and projects of The Center for Land Use Interpretation)*, 2007, 12 inkjet prints

Daniel Tucker, The We Are Here Map Archive

Alex Villar

Yin Xiuzhen

Exhibition Itinerary*

Richard E. Peeler Art Center

DePauw University
Greencastle, Indiana
September 19 – December 12, 2008

Rochester Art Center

Rochester, Minnesota
February 7 – April 18, 2009

The Albuquerque Museum

Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 28 – September 20, 2009

Miller Gallery

Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburg, PA
October 10, 2009 – January 31, 2010

The Colby College Museum of Art

Colby College
Waterville, Maine
February 21 – May 30, 2010

Museum London

London, Ontario
October 9, 2010 – January 2, 2011

**Additional venues to be announced*

Experimental Geography is a traveling exhibition organized and circulated by ICI (Independent Curators International), New York. The guest curator for the exhibition is Nato Thompson. The exhibition, tour, and catalogue are made possible, in part, by the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the ICI Advocates, the ICI Partners, Gerrit L. and Sydnie Lansing, and Barbara and John Robinson.

About ICI

Founded in 1975, ICI is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of contemporary art through traveling exhibitions and other activities that reach a diverse national and international audience. Collaborating with a wide range of eminent curators, ICI develops innovative traveling exhibitions, accompanied by catalogues and other educational materials, to introduce and document challenging new work in all mediums by younger as well as more established artists from the United States and abroad.

For additional information or visual materials, contact Michelle Jubin at 212-254-8200 ext. 21, jubin@ici-exhibitions.org. Visit iCI's web site: www.ici-exhibitions.org