

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY and ARTSPEAK present:

TERRITORY

June 10 – August 6, 2006

Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla
Roy Arden
The Atlas Group/Walid Raad
Yael Bartana
Cao Fei
Germaine Koh
Gonzalo Lebrija
Jayce Salloum
Seripop
Ron Terada



Gonzalo Lebrija, *Aranjuez*, 2003 still from dvd installation

Territory is an exhibition concerned with mapping urban experience, civic space, and contested terrains. The project extends beyond the gallery spaces at Artspeak and Presentation House Gallery to public sites around Vancouver, and also includes guided walks, lectures, a film series and publication.

The artworks in *Territory* navigate real and imagined territories – geographic, political, economic, and social. In doing so they reveal how cultural mythologies, both local and global, are scripted into built environments and determine human interactions. The social impact of the often invisible boundaries delineated by civic conflict, gentrification, security, and communication systems is made apparent.

Five artworks have been commissioned for the public domain: photographic billboards by Roy Arden, roaming mobile signboards by Ron Terada, soil transplants by Germaine Koh, photographs by Jayce Salloum dispersed through various distribution systems, and silkscreens posterized around the city by Seripop. Encountered by chance, these ephemeral works provoke tensions between public and private space. These artists temporarily occupy and lay claim to transient street life and civic terrain.

In the galleries at Artspeak and Presentation House Gallery five international artists offer poetic interpretations of conditions that impact cities: Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla, The Atlas Group/Walid Raad, Yael Bartana, Gonzalo Lebrija and Cao Fei. Whether footage of Beirut, Guangzhou, or Guadalajara, we see fragmented spaces of transition and crisis. The instability of places like the Pearl River Delta in China and the Middle East are interpreted in terms of the intersections of global economies, political violence and collective behaviour.

Over

Territory also involves mapping the city through guided walks from literary, visual art and architectural perspectives that will bring to light some of its hidden stories. Michael Barnholden will animate the events of two downtown riots, Neil Wedman will interpret the history of sidewalks, and Annabel Vaughan will trace threads of Vancouver's original urban grid.

June 17 & July 29

ANNABEL VAUGHAN, architect

Wandering the Leqleqi Portage: Transecting Vancouver's Narrative

Walking from Crab Park on Burrard Inlet to the eastern edge of False Creek, this walk will trace one thread of Vancouver's story along Carrall Street.

Meet at the band stand in Crab Park at 2pm

June 24 & July 22

MICHAEL BARNHOLDEN, writer

If you don't riot, you can't complain

This walk will include sites of the Anti-Asiatic Riot of 1907, the Free Speech Riots of 1912 in the Powell Street grounds; and Maple Tree Square, site of the infamous 1971 Police Riot also known as the Gastown Riots.

Meet at Artspeak at 2 pm

July 15 & August 5

NEIL WEDMAN, artist

Walking for Years

In most Vancouver neighborhoods the sidewalks bear the impression of a date indicating the year they were poured. A tour of significant dates offers a direct experience of tangible, concrete history in a random pattern of aimless wandering

Meet at the SW corner bus stop at Granville & Robson at 2pm. Bring bus fare.

FILM SERIES at Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street

Wednesday, July 19 & Thursday, July 20: screenings begin at 7pm

On July 19 at 7pm **Cao Fei** will discuss her artwork, followed by a screening of her film, "Father."

Please check www.presentationhousegall.com for site maps and updated information.

Press images are available.

MEDIA CONTACT: Diane Evans, 604-986-1351

Territory is organized by Artspeak and Presentation House Gallery, and curated by Melanie O'Brian and Helga Pakasaar. This project has received financial support from the Spirit of BC Arts Fund, BC Arts Council, Vancouver Foundation, North Shore Arts Commission and Canada Council for the Arts.

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Sunday 12 to 5pm; Thursday 12 to 9pm, closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission by donation

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