

PREMS

Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro

in Résonance with the Biennale de Lyon

opening on Thursday, November 19, 6 - 10 pm **RESONANCE NIGHT**
exhibition from November 20, 2009 to January 30, 2010

Opening hours : from Wednesday to Saturday, 2 - 7 pm (M° Hôtel-de-Ville)



Image of archives

The two Australian artists Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro develop a sculptural work through a variety of media. In exploring the materials of our contemporary world, they raise socio-political issues such as globalization, mediatic culture, consumption and the property. Prem is a colloquialism used to claim the right of possession over an object. The idea that we can have something just by being the first to name it still works geographically, with the claim land rights, but also biologically with the copyright and other human genetics.

For their exhibition at La BF15, artists reproduce with Lego bricks terrain of a region of China known as China's "Area 51". Discovered in 2006 thanks to satellite images of Google Earth, this area appears to be an exact replica, scale 500:1, of the 157 500 km² of the Chinese province of Aksai Chin, border region adjoining India and Pakistan. The reasons for the achievement of this model of Aksai Chin remain a mystery : The area is important for China because it connects Tibet with a road that the Chinese built in 1962. Experts say that this model could have been built for military purposes. By making a replica of an existing model, and making it portable, Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro continue consideration of this fascinating mystery.

partners :

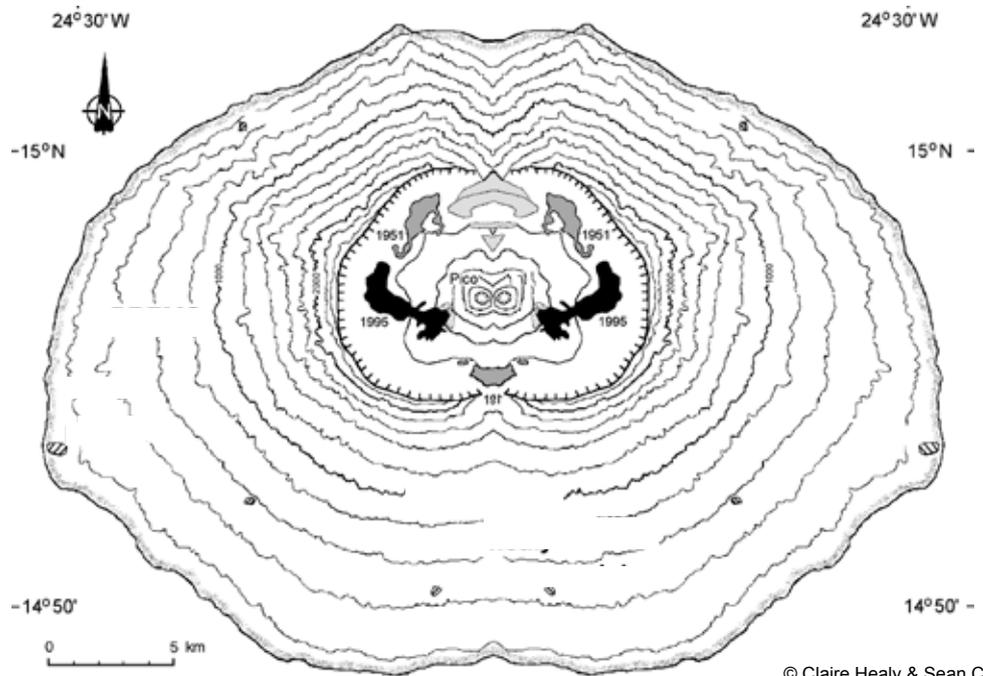


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La BF15

association soutenue par la Ville de Lyon, la Région Rhône-Alpes et le Ministère de la Culture / DRAC Rhône-Alpes

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Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro

(...) Our relation to space and place and to the world that is accessible to our senses is fundamental to who we are. Memory is an elusive thing but we are sure now that much of what we remember is triggered by sensations from without rather than coming from a black box somewhere within. Our thinking and our imagining is in constant dialogue with the material world and with ideas that circulate in our societies. Every time we experience a particular event or sensation that connects to our embedded memories the pathway is reinforced. To stop responding to such experiences would be to atrophy the imagination and the intellect.

This reinforcement of experience is exactly what Sean Cordiero & Claire Healy use to make their art. They have led a somewhat peripatetic life style moving from place to place as students and now from international residency to residency taking on board the many different textures and patterns of behaviour that still exist from culture to culture. In such circumstances simple things can provide anchors to place and time past and present. For example we often find a bus ticket in the back of a wallet kept for no apparent reason or a photo or a piece of ribbon. These objects have the capacity to catapult us into some charged recollection. Alzheimer's patients can respond to an object from their past pouring out memories thought lost forever.

How poignant is it to look closely at a wall where a building has been partly demolished? We see the outline of rooms, wallpaper, fireplaces, and the tracery of long vanished plumbing captured in layers of paint. This startling exposure of the intimate histories of families brings the inside out in a disturbing way. This kind of sensation of the world is a powerful trigger for the imagination. Sean and Claire are working in a tradition that is central to contemporary art but that has a prehistory in medieval reliquaries and sympathetic magic in tribal communities since the dawn of time. Surrealism and dada reintroduced this way of thinking about objects in modern times and since then it has been the language of some of the most important contemporary artists around the world.

Sean and Claire handle this history of ideas brilliantly; manifesting memories that are often personal to them but that are so much part of daily life that the ideas and experiences are readily accessible to anyone with imagination. Human experience of the everyday, of the things we do to make ourselves feel at home, can be every bit as powerful as grand epics. Our loves, misgivings and hopes are embodied in these small things.

Anthony Bond

Assistant Director Art Gallery of New South Wales



© Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro,
Wohnwagen (Past Times), 2006 - 2007
 installation
 entire deconstructed caravan and euro pallets
 Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
 Private collection, Tasmania
 Photo: Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro
 courtesy the artists and Gallery Barry Keldoulis.

Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro are born in Australia in 1971 and 1974.
 They live and work in Berlin.

<http://www.claireandsean.com>

recents exhibitions

- 2009 *Once removed*, 53rd La Biennale di Venezia, Italy
Terra Nullius, ACC Galerie Weimar, Germany
<< || >>, RDFgalerie, Nice, France
- 2008 *The Flats*, Bicentennial Park Homebush Bay, Sydney
Optimism, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland art Gallery
Leading Lights, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Manual, Gitte Wiese Gallery, Berlin
In the Space of Elsewhere, Stanley Packer Gallery, Kingston University, London
Best of Discovery, shContemporary, Shanghai
GBK at Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Nothing of North Unknown, Galerie Alexandra Saheb, Berlin
Urban Jealousy, Tehran Biennial
Hijacked Volume One, Neunplus, Berlin
Hijacked, FotoFreo, Art Source, Fremantle, Western Australia
Australian, Casula Powerhouse
Disruptive Colouration, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney
- 2007 *gbk @ Silvershot*, Melbourne
 ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award, Sydney
Paper Trail, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Air de Berlin, Gallery AVU, Prague
Slowing Down, Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Melbourne
Primary Producers, Performance Space at Carriage Works, Sydney
NEW07, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
Sink, Universität der Künste, Berlin
- 2006 *Salon*, D21 Leipzig, Germany
Strange Cargo, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle, Australia
Adventures with Form in Space, Art Gallery Of New South Wales, Sydney
Boulevard, Kurfurstendamm, Berlin
Husvild, Galleri Ebbesen, Copenhagen
Custom Living, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney
Ten[d]jancy, Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney
Flat Pack, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
Von Angels zu Riots, NewYorkRioTokyo, Berlin
GBK at Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Flaming Youth, Orange Regional Gallery
The Year in Art, S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *GBK at Span Gallery*, Melbourne
Home Invasion, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Dank Street, Sydney
Maintenance; From Space to Place, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art; Plimsol Gallery,
The Lake Project, Taipei Artist Village (TAV), Gallery, Taiwan
When the Bulls Fight the Calves get Crushed, Siddhartha Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal