

Community without Propinquity Research Lab

Throughout the exhibition period, MK Gallery Project Space will serve as a research laboratory and forum for an investigation into the word 'community' and what Melvin Webber meant when he said, that communities in the future would develop without propinquity (proximity, neighbourliness).

Artists and writers will be exploring the social and cultural policies of early Milton Keynes with organisations such as The Open University, MK's Channel 40 TV station from the 1970s and the communal housing communities. This evolving project will culminate on Saturday 26 November 2011 with artists' performances, a public symposium where research is presented and a publication.

New Commissions

As part of the research lab, the works will be developed and presented throughout October and November as video works, performances, printed matter and video. Each of the artists has spent considerable time researching Milton Keynes and considering its communities.

The commissioned artists are:

Caroline Devine, Emma Hedditch, Kelly Large, Emma Smith, Patrick Staff, and Mark Aerial Waller, An Endless Supply.

The Publication

Contributions from: Dr Melissa Butcher (OU), Celine Condorelli, Dr Don Slater (LSE), Stephen Willats and all the commissioned artists. Including material from the MK Discovery Centre archive. Designed by *An Endless Supply* and produced using *ANDPublic* by *ANDPublishing*.

Published and distributed at the Closing Event, 26 November 2011

Project Supporters

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Project Space & Events Room



Stuart Whipps, *Thamesmead 001* (2010)

Community without
Propinquity

7 October –
27 November 2011

*Community without Propinquity** is a project exploring the roles of contemporary art and communities in New Towns across the globe. The project includes an exhibition, a video programme, and over the duration of the show will present a community research lab, with six new artist commissions, a publication and symposium.

The exhibition in the Project Space and video programme in the Events Room includes work related to Shenzhen (China), Chandigarh (India), Brasilia (Brazil), Bredang (Sweden) and UK New Towns, such as Harlow, Thamesmead, Runcorn and Stevenage. These works form part of an archive of new town artworks, as collected by the *Inheritance Project* curators.

The Project Space will serve as a research lab and forum for public events and artists' commissions, exploring the development of community in Milton Keynes. This evolving project will culminate on Saturday 26 November with artists' performances, a public symposium and a publication.

Organised by curatorial group, *Inheritance Projects*
(Claire Louise Staunton with Laura Guy and Becky Ayre)

* The title *Community without Propinquity* is taken from a 1963 speech by Melvin Webber, a consultant with the MK Development Corporation. He predicted that future communities would be formed through self-directed, economic and social networks rather than engineered through physical proximity.

Project Space Exhibition

1 Wayne Lloyd

Nu Town (A Clockwork Orange), 2008/2011

Performance, video. Originally commissioned by Roman Vasseur as Lead Artist in Harlow

To mark the launch of the *Community without Propinquity* Lloyd will perform *A Clockwork Orange*, a film in which the modern architecture of New Towns has a distinct role. A recording of the performance will be integrated into the exhibition in the Project Space.

2 Jesal Kapadia

A vacant rectangle, left blank for a work expressing modern feeling

Digital archival prints, Vinyl lettering, Video, 2008

A mute testimony to the city of Chandigarh designed and built by le Corbusier in the 1950s.

3 Nathan Coley

The Square of the Three Powers (West), 2011

The Square of the Three Powers (East), 2011

Gold leaf on gelatin silver print

Photographic studies of the Oscar Niemeyer-designed main square in Brasilia. The artist added the gold leaf element several years after the photo was printed.

4 An Endless Supply with books loaned from the MK Discovery Centre

Table, bookshelf, vinyl print, designed for the exhibition, 2011

The typeface is called 'Eurostile 1962' and was used for town planning designs and graphics. The table is a scale model of a Porte Cochere, the black gateways found all over Milton Keynes.

5 Paulo Catrica

Subtopia, 2011

Photographs, Filing Cabinet, Digital slide show projection

Subtopia proposes to build a cognitive map on the contemporary condition of New Towns in the United Kingdom.

6 Pia Rönicke

A Place like Any Other, 2001

21'00" and 16'00", double channel video

A video work profiling Bredang near Stockholm, a part of the "Million Dwelling Project" in the 1960s and 1970s

7 Vincent Meessen

Sièges, 2011

Sièges are two replicas' of Le Corbusier's seats designed for La Maison du Brésil in Paris, originally intended for Brasilia and reinterpreted by the artist.

8 Stuart Whipps

New Wooabbeleri (Thamesmead 001) (Plan No. A185 Date Sept 1957) (Plan No. A186 Date Sept 1957), 2010

Digital C Print Photograph, Silk Screen Prints.

The project '*New Wooabbeleri*' involves an analysis of how Thamesmead received its name.

9 Ishmael Randall Weeks

Brasilia Table, 2010

Bricks, iron, wood, lamps, 2 photo-transfers on paper, 2 photo-transfers on aluminium.

This installation, combining found materials and clay bricks, is the outcome of research into Brasilia.

10 Bai Xiaoci

I Live Here, 2005-2007

Digital Photographs

An epic photographic project documenting the homes and lives of migrants to Shenzhen.

Community without Propinquity

Artist's Video & Film Programme

This looped film programme is 1 hour and 53 minutes long

Pia Rönicke

Zonen, 2005, 22'00"

Three young Danish architects are visiting a site they have proposed to transform into a town for 20 000 people.

Bernd Behr

Weimar Villa, 2010, 9'28"

A video work shot on the construction site of a new Bauhaus-themed gated community in China the video chronicles part of a recent New Town development designed by Albert Speer Jr.

Cao Fei

RMB City: A Second Life City Planning, 2007, 5'57"

The virtual city in the 3-D virtual world of Second Life entirely designed by the artist.

Cyprien Gaillard

Cities of Gold and Mirrors, 2009, 8'52"

A non-narrative film that continues the artist's investigation into intentionally planned districts, in this case, the resort town of Cancun, Mexico.

Amanda Beech

Statecraft, 2008, 11'00"

A fictional journey through the geographic spaces of Harlow with the private ideals for community, equality and solidarity.

Corey McCorkle

Tower of Shadows, 2006, 3'00"

The unfinished monument in Chandigarh, filmed from dawn till dusk.

Vincent Meessen

Dear Advisor, 2009, 8'00"

A lone figure (the architect?) roams Chandigarh.

Minouk Lim

New Town Ghost, 2007, 10'45"

An angry video response to the gentrification of Yeorigdeongpo, a New Town near Seoul.

Cao Fei

Live in RMB City, 2007, 24'49"

A portrait of the newly born China Sun, in *RMB City*.

Special screenings (Sat/Sun at 15:00):

Every weekend we will interrupt the looped programme for a special screening of these longer films.

22 & 23, 29 & 30 October:

Huang Xiaopeng

Rock Point Inn, 2008, 36mins

A video piece that takes the viewer on a slow motion tour through Thames Town, an exact replica of Lyme Regis near Shanghai.

5 & 6, 12 & 13 November:

Dominique Gonzales Foerster

Parc Central, 2006, 50mins

A collection of 11 short poetic psycho-geographic portraits of cities and spaces including Brasilia and Hong Kong.

19 & 20, 26 & 27 November:

Pierre Huyghe

Streamside Day Follies, 2003, 26mins

Huyghe's film traces the formation of a burgeoning community hypothetically located in New York's Hudson Valley today.