

MK Gallery

News Release



Vincent Meessen, Still from *Dear Adviser*, 2008, video, 8 mins.

MK Gallery Project Space

Community without Proximity

7 October – 27 November 2011
Preview: 6 October 6 – 8pm

*Community without Proximity** 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, six new artist's commissions, a research laboratory, publication and symposium.

The exhibition, in the Project Space, includes work related to Shenzhen (China), Chandigarh (India), Brasilia (Brazil) and UK New Towns, such as Harlow, Thamesmead, Runcorn and Stevenage, providing a context for cities built on land with no previous significant population.

The video programme, in the Events Room, explores the utopian social and architectural plans of New Towns, from Chinese replicas of a British seaside town to a German modernist estate, via a new city that exists entirely online.

The Project Space also serves as a research laboratory and forum for public events and artists commissioned to make new work, 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 in a final weekend of events, a public symposium where research is presented and a publication.

*The title *Community without Proximity* is taken from a 1963 speech made by Melvin Webber, an urbanist and consultant with the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. He predicted that future communities (specifically Milton Keynes) would be formed through self-directed, rational economic and social networks rather than engineered through physical proximity. This prediction will serve as the project's broad theme, investigating the existence and formation of community for public activities.

Notes to Editors

The project is organised by independent curator Claire Louise Staunton with curatorial group *Inheritance Projects*, while the research lab and publication have been commissioned from *An Endless Supply*.

Artists in the exhibition include:

Paulo Catrica, Nathan Coley, Cao Fei, Jesal Kapadia, Wayne Lloyd, Vincent Meessen, Paul Noble, Ishmael Randall Weeks, Pia Rönicke and Stuart Whipps.

Artists in the video programme include:

Amanda Beech, Cyprien Gaillard, Dominique Gonzalez Foerster, Pierre Huyghe, Minouk Lim, Corey McCorkle, Vincent Meessen, Pia Rönicke, Alain Tanner and Huang Xiaopeng.

The commissioned artists include:

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

Project Research Contact

Any members of the public wishing to contribute to the project research please contact Claire Louise Staunton, Director and Curator of Inheritance Projects: info@inheritanceprojects.org. Alternatively please contact Emma Fry, Head of Learning at MK Gallery: efry@mkgallery.org.

MK Gallery

900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. MK Gallery is one of the UK's leading public galleries, presenting a programme of international contemporary visual art. Open Tuesday–Friday 12–8pm, Saturday 11am–8pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. Admission free.

MK Gallery Project Space

894, Midsummer Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 3QA. MK Gallery's Project Space is available to groups and residents of Milton Keynes for monthly exhibitions of contemporary visual art. Facilitated by MK Gallery's Learning Team, the Project Space programme aims to contribute to the cultural growth of Milton Keynes, by encouraging innovative partnerships between educators, artists, groups and local residents. See www.mkgallery.org for details.

Project Supporters

Supported by Arts Council England, Milton Keynes Community Foundation, Vision Forum



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Press Information and Images

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