



EAST WEST



BERLIN

For Immediate Release: FROM THE EAST & WEST COASTS OF AMERICA TO THE HEART OF GERMANY...

Exhibit: "RECONSTRUCTION"
Venue: The EAST/WEST Project BERLIN
Artists: Jonathan Brilliant, Eric Hollender & Ruth Marshall (Dam Stuhltrager/ East Coast, USA)
Sean Healy & Joe Thurston (galleryHOMELAND & Elizabeth Leach/ West Coast, USA)
Sven Stuckenschmidt (Berlin, Germany)

Dates: Oct 23 - Nov 21, 2009
Opening Reception: Fri Oct 23 (7pm - 10pm)
Hours: Tues thru Sat: noon - 6pm, or by appt.

Contact: The EAST/WEST Project
Memhardstr. 1, 10178 Berlin Germany
www.damstuhltrager.com/east_west.htm - theeastwestproject@gmail.com
hrs: Fri 3-8pm, Sat & Sun noon -6pm

Directions: Any train to Alexanderplatz. 1 block East of TV Tower to corner where Alexanderplatz, Karl Liebknecht Strasse and Memhardstr meet.

THE EAST/WEST PROJECT :

The EAST/WEST Project is a 501(c) international artist residency and exhibition program that travels to different communities around the world recognized for their emerging art scene. The project encourages cultural exchange by establishing short term (about six months) project spaces for international artists to build long term relationships to share, develop and progress contemporary ideas.

About "RECONSTRUCTION":

In EAST/WEST's second exhibition in Berlin, a diverse group of artists create whole new worlds that only exist within their installations. The six artists participating hail from across the United States, Australia and Germany, bringing diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Their combined visions form a unique survey into how contemporary installation explores physical and metaphysical space.

Jonathan Brilliant (Charleston, South Carolina USA) uses materials from his natural environment to reconfigure the white cube of the front gallery into a warm warren of wood. Brilliant draws his materials from the countless coffee shops that have become a familiar presence in every city. His dimensional, woven landscapes are both ironic and labor intensive with a traditional craft based sensibility.

Eric Hollender (Brooklyn, New York USA) utilizes a fundamental shape reoccurring throughout nature to redefine space: the "Honeycomb". Hollender's "Honeycomb" of folded paper demonstrates how the most elemental form and strongest building blocks in nature's foundations move with time and weight, bend to reform anew, and always remain inherently themselves.

Ruth Marshall (Bronx, New York) textiles readjust the balance between environmental issues of conservation and a commercially driven, modern world. Marshall's one of a kind textiles are exact replicas of individual animals she has studied. By creating a more lucrative market for hand crafted faux pelt created by an artist over a poached skin, Marshall's work implicitly resets the black market's demand. Marshall signifies how supporting the culture of the society, in this case art, is more sustainable, viable and lucrative than short term gains of a consumer driven world.

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Sean Healy and Joe Thurston (Portland, Oregon USA) imagine all traces of humanity have disappeared and icebergs existing only as myth. The future in their installation depicts “icebergs” as icons of a moment past, a representation of the geological era inhabited previously - a reminder that the landscape perceived to be immutable today can be completely transformed. The “iceberg” herein is a mythological icon and the penguin a family crest - archetypes representing power, a link to the past and a deep understanding of the mysterious. These symbols are a reminder of the reality of global transformation, the scope of time and its inevitable march forward.

Sven Stuckenschmidt (Berlin, Germany) revisits the micro and macro aspects of contemporary daily existence. His real world inspiration, whether from personal or publicly experiencing events, is interpreted as a memory and then abstracted. Stuckenschmidt’s masks imply different facets as experiences are internalized including being represented as a fetish or cult object or symbolizing the exotic or as a “savage” in European art and cultural history. Ultimately though, the artist’s masks provide possibility for playing a new, self assigned role.

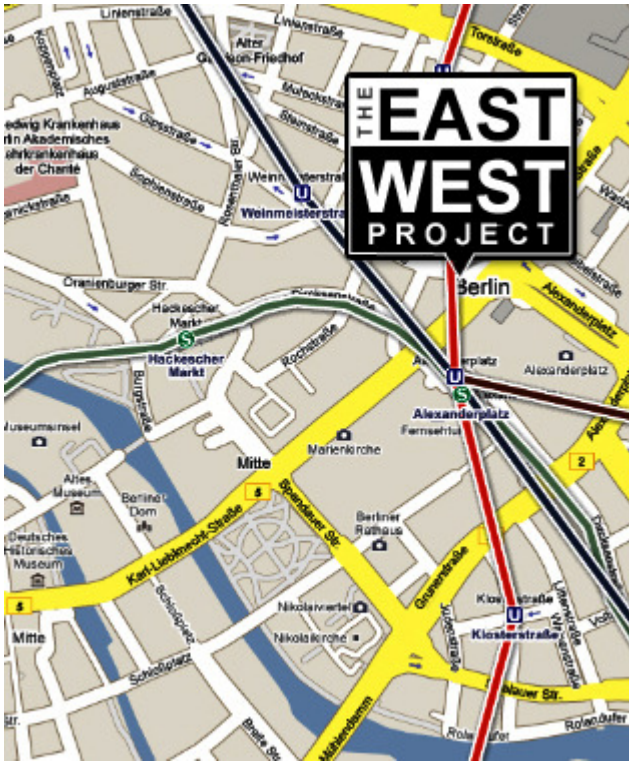
ABOUT THE EAST/WEST CO-FOUNDERS:

EAST Coast Co-Founder *Leah Stuhltrager of Dam, Stuhltrager* Founded in 1998, Dam, Stuhltrager is a contemporary art gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The gallery is known as an incubator of emerging talent and for groundbreaking exhibitions that incorporate technology or utilize mediums in a new, fresh way.

Dam, Stuhltrager’s nine artists have provided large public installations in some of the most visible venues and events throughout the world including Lincoln Center (New York), Coachella (Indio), E-Halle (Basel), Convention Center (Istanbul), Circulo de Bellas Artes (Madrid) and The Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg) to name a few... This September, Dam, Stuhltrager ships off on an artist on an expedition with the Farm Foundation (Arctic Circle), commences a 150 ft public install at the Oriental Pearl Tower (Shanghai), launches the nonprofit artist residency The East/West Project (Berlin) and sends art off to handful of museum exhibits.

WEST Coast Co-Founder *Paul Middendorf of galleryHOMELAND* Founded in 2005, galleryHOMELAND is 501(c)3 non-profit fostering cutting edge and challenging concepts in art. Our goal is to work closely with the community to provide some of the finest exhibitions and projects for Portland’s creative economy. galleryHOMELAND contributes to the contemporary arts in Portland through the cross-pollination of regional, national, and international art and artists.

galleryHOMELAND’s nine emerging and mid-career artists are nationally represented and internationally exhibited showing work in museums, gallery exhibitions and art fairs around the world. Istanbul Biennale (Istanbul), Shibuya O-Nest (Tokyo), Aqua (Miami), Tacoma Art Museum (Tacoma, WA), Portland Art Museum (Portland, OR).



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