

MEDIA RELEASE

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**The Edmonton Art Gallery presents:
*Re: Building the World***

A large-scale exhibition that celebrates the
the art and design of architecture

The Edmonton Art Gallery (EAG) proudly presents ***Re: Building the World***, curated by Catherine Crowston and, featuring the work of 7 Canadian artists: **Rodney Graham, Brian Jungen, Nestor Kruger, An Te Liu, Alex Morrison, Isabelle Pauwels and Natalija Subotincic**. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, February 19 and runs until May 8, 2005.

Re: Building the World features a new 3-d animation by Toronto artist, Nestor Krüger that is based on the plans of the interior of the Stoneborough House, designed by German philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein in 1926. Krüger's animation allows the viewer to move on a specific trajectory through the building, mimicking the movement of a film dolly cam and creating the illusion that we occupy its virtual space. The idiosyncratic design of personal space is taken up in Rodney Graham's five interior design proposals for the Brothers Grimm study, which are based on watercolour renditions of the space originally created in 1861. Graham proposes a doubling of rooms that would seem to be an architectural parallel to the brothers' close working relationship but also conveys a sense of the fairy tale quality of their work. Over the past several years, Winnipeg artist and architect Natalija Subotincic has conducted extensive research into the design of Sigmund Freud's famous consulting rooms and study. Her aerial and room elevation drawings illuminate how the design of his interior space can be seen to be a physical manifestation of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis.

In the 31 drawings of Alex Morrison's *Every House I've Ever Lived in Drawn from Memory*, the artist gives a glimpse into the spatial nature of time and memory. As well, in a new series of posters and drawings entitled, *Gesucht!*, Morrison imagines a way to document the life of the "wagenburgen" and urban squatters in the former GDR. Isabelle Pauwels book and installation, *Unfurnished Apartment for Rent*, looks at the narrative possibility that is literally embedded or constructed within every domestic setting.

Using the space of the Gallery as a workshop, Vancouver artist Brian Jungen has created a habitat for birds using only pre-fabricated materials purchased at the local Ikea: wooden file boxes, shelving brackets, placemats and other home decorator items. Through peep holes into the space and via closed circuit cameras, viewers are able to track the birds' use of their new environment – an environment based on the ubiquity of Swedish modern design. Working with these ideas of design and the design of planned housing, Toronto artist and architect An Te Liu's new wallpaper installation has been based on an aerial photograph of Levittown, one of the first suburban communities built in the U.S. in the post war period – paradigms for the single family

suburban neighborhood. In this work, Liu conflates the ideal plan of the suburb with the design of wallpaper – a decorative embellishment common to domestic spaces in the 1950s and 1960s.

Everyday, we build and re-build the world in which we live. The artists in *Re: Building the World*, call our attention to the decisions we make in how we inhabit space, and how also, it comes to inhabit us.

The Edmonton Art Gallery is located at 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square.

www.edmontonartgallery.com