

CIRRUS GALLERY



Caroline Thomas, *Interlude*, video still, 2012

Building on Ruins

Nicolas Grenier
Keith Rocka Knittel
Michael Ray-Von & Marcel Miranda Ackerman
Vidisha Saini
Katie Sinnott
Caroline Thomas
Etienne Zack

November 16 to January 18, 2013

Opening Reception Saturday November 16, 5 - 9pm

Performance "The Eldorado", an episode of "Of Eldorado" by Vidisha-Fadescha at 5pm and 8:15pm / Performance by sound artist Liew Niyomkarn for "Of Eldorado" at 8pm

Cirrus Gallery / Tuesday-Saturday 10am- 5pm

542 S. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 / (213) 680-3473 / www.cirrusgallery.com

Building on Ruins

"He who seeks to approach his own buried past must conduct himself like a man digging."
— Walter Benjamin

The famous actress sweeps down the temple's crumbling promenade in a magenta sari, past growling monkeys and smoking soldiers squatting along the edge of the polluted moat. Urine streaming down her bare leg, the outraged child screams and points at the German tourist's shiny Nikon when he refuses to purchase her paper rose for an American dollar. Behind the headless Vishnu, decapitated by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, the teenager huffs paint, staining purple lips with a silver metallic halo.

Angkor Wat is an amalgamation of desire and antipathy, industry and collapse, faith and futility, a 1,200 year old lost mecca consumed by strangler tree roots, "rediscovered" by a French naturalist and today famed with a Cirque du Soleil extravaganza, Smile of Angkor. Five centuries of urban development excavated from the jungle, Hindu temples became Buddhist temples, which were later reconverted into Hindu temples, before being occupied by Buddhist monks — each transition leaving traces in the stones: a cultural layering followed by five centuries of human neglect and vegetal growth, repopulated with hordes of tourists and vendors. At the apex is a contemporary layer of history in the form of human litter.

Building on Ruins is a collective project exploring this storied stratification, from which we can conceive fabrication and collapse as part of the same project, and thus engage directly with the layering of history. The exhibition's works direct the viewer to a deconstructed architecture, framework, or system as a point of departure to build on top of — literally and figuratively — one's personal relationship with the layering of history and the ensuing artistic impulse to erect our own constructions on the problematic ground on which we stand.

Consisting of a gallery exhibition, a series of readings and performances, and an expansive web-based project, Building on Ruins gathers works that demonstrate a willingness to acknowledge structural damage in an overall pattern of embedded political, economic, social and cultural issues.

Schedule of Events

Friday, November 1

Building on Ruins website goes live (<http://buildingon.ru/ins>)

Saturday, November 16

5-9pm Opening reception / 5pm & 8:15pm Performance "The Eldorado" by Vidisha-Fadescha / 8pm Performance by Liew Niyomkarn for "Of Eldorado"

Thursday, November 21

7pm Reading by Travis Diehl / Screening of "Post Fordlandia" (Megs Morley & Tom Flanagan)

Saturday, December 14

7pm Reading by Marco Franco Di Domenico / Talk by Yung Jake

Saturday, December 21

7-9pm Offsite event — Vidisha-Fadescha performs "Eldorado to Eldorado"

Saturday, January 18

12-6pm Live KCHUNG Broadcast / 3pm Presentation by Yelena Zhelezov

4pm Talk by Steve Kado / 5-6pm Performance by Vidisha-Fadescha

Nicolas Grenier received his BFA from Concordia University and his MFA from CalArts. Recent exhibitions include: A Marginal Revolution (Kuad Galley, Istanbul), The Road (Luis De Jesus Los Angeles), Color Consciousness (Torrance Art Museum), Have You Seen My Privacy? (Concord, Los Angeles), Corner-Thru (Choi&Lager Gallery, Cologne, and Union gallery, London), and Proximities (galerie Art Mûr). Grenier's work can be found in the Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec and the Loto-Québec Collection. He currently lives in both Montreal and Los Angeles.

Keith Rocka Knittel holds an MFA from CalArts and a BFA from the Maryland Institute, College of Art. He is the Founding Director of OCEAN (westofcalifornia.org). His work has been in recent exhibits at Angels Gate Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA), Otras Obras (Tijuana, Mexico) and DoubleDoubleLand (Toronto, Canada). He lives and works in San Pedro, California.

Michael Ray-Von has lived primarily in Southern California, and studied at the California Institute of the Arts. He is the co-Director of Otras Obras, an art space in Tijuana, BC, and currently resides in Mexico City, DF. **Marcel Miranda Ackerman** is a software writer focused on source code aesthetics and design automation algorithms. Originally from Tijuana, residing in México City. 198.199.88.228 port 80.

Vidisha Saini holds a Master of Fine Arts in Photography & Media, and Integrated Media from CalArts and a Bachelor of Design in Communication Design from National Institute of Fashion Technology (New Delhi). Solo exhibitions include "White Breeding" and "Of Eldorado" at CalArts, and "Pratibimb & Showtime" at Matthieu Foss Gallery in Mumbai. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

Katie Sinnott received her MFA from UCLA in 2013, and holds degrees from UC Berkeley and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She recently exhibited at Night Gallery and ACME in Los Angeles, where she currently resides.

Caroline Thomas holds a BA in Art from UC Berkeley and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting in Sculpture. She received her MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. Her work has been in recent exhibitions at Telles Fine Art and the Hammer Museum, where her work can be found in their permanent collection. She currently lives in Los Angeles.

Etienne Zack attended the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Concordia University, and Saint-Laurent College in Montréal. Recent solo exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art of Montreal, Canada (catalog), Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway, Thomas Dane Gallery, London, England, and Blackwood Gallery at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, Canada. His work can be found in a number of collections such as the National Gallery of Canada, Vancouver Art Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art of Montreal, National Fine Arts Museum of Quebec, Montreal Fine Arts Museum, Zabłudowicz Collection, and The Model in Ireland. Zack currently lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.

Building on Ruins was co-organized by Nicolas Grenier, Keith Rocka Knittel and Etienne Zack.