



Thomas Weinberger "History Rising, Dubai" 2006

30 Sept-21 Nov 2009

Strange Places

Urban Landscape Photography

Strange Places brings together 11 international contemporary artists who propose an alternative mapping of the globalized urban condition. Whether gazing at ambiguous thresholds on the edges of the city, or tracing liminal spaces in its centre, these photographs explore themes of place, identity, boundaries and the uneasy encounter between land and built environment. The images do not capture urban life as action, but meditate on the spaces where it unfolds. What arises from this observation of traces and aftermath is a poetic quality hinting at the potential beauty of the most unlikely places.

The ideas behind *Strange Places* are drawn from both photographic discourses and emerging ideas of alternative urbanism. In the realm of recent cultural and urban theory, scholars have argued for a broadening of our intellectual stance and range of media for engaging with the modern urban phenomenon. Simultaneously, a growing body of photographic land- and cityscapes has challenged established definitions and categories, in an attempt to represent the richness and ambiguity of our late modern notion of place. The artists represented in this show have been attracted to the blurred boundaries and surprising intersections of culture and nature, fact and fiction, private and public, to produce work that reveals complex modes of inhabitation, appropriation, alienation and destruction.

Strange Places is curated by Alexandra Stara and features the artists: Sabine Bitter/Helmut Weber (b.1960/1957, Austria); Rut Blees Luxemburg (b.1967, Germany); Hannah Collins (b.1956, UK); Ori Gersht (b.1967, Israel); Steffi Klenz (b.1979, Germany); Sze Tsung Leong (b.1970, Mexico); Mark Power (b.1959, UK); Xavier Ribas (b.1960, Spain); Heidi Specker (b.1962, Germany); Thomas Weinberger (b.1964, Germany); Rachel Wilberforce (b.1975, UK).

Events Wed 30 Sept **Curator's Talk** 6pm / **Exhibition Launch** 6.30-8.30pm

Wed 7 Oct, Wed 21 Oct & Wed 18 Nov 12.30-1.30pm **Artists in conversation with the curator**

Tues 10 Nov 6.30pm ***Strange Places: Photography as Alternative Urbanism*** debate at the Architecture Foundation, chaired by the curator and featuring artists, architects and theorists. For full details visit www.architecturefoundation.org.uk

Stanley Picker Gallery

Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture
Kingston University, Knights Park
Kingston upon Thames KT1 2QJ
t 0208 417 8074 picker@kingston.ac.uk
www.stanleypickergallery.org



LOTTERY FUNDED



Kingston University London