

** For immediate release 12 September 2008

Found Ground: Intervention for vacant urban space

WHAT: FOUND GROUND: a public multi-media installation

WHEN: September 17 - 20, 2008, evening hours

WHERE: Downtown Providence, RI
(beginning on Sept. 17th on Eddy Street, near Weybossett + other locations)
Free and open to the public; viewable by anyone walking or driving downtown

WHO: Erik Carlson, Erik Gould and Erica Carpenter
This installation was created as a collaboration between Erik Carlson (composer + media artist), Erik Gould (photographer + media artist) and Erica Carpenter (writer)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

FOUND GROUND is composed of found, collected and remixed 8mm home-movies and text, projected large on "new-found" ground of Providence — in this case, on walls recently exposed by downtown demolition. 1950's-70's footage of vacation travels, roadside views and scenes of home will be projected on surfaces that reveal a co-mingling of interior and exterior finishes (bathroom tiles, wallboard, bare brick, doorways) as part of a project that seeks to explore how we as Americans discover, imagine, inhabit, consume and lose the known spaces around us. With its homemade images, **FOUND GROUND** looks at the broad American landscape through the lens of some of our most intimate cultural ideals (home, family, travel, leisure), with an eye toward establishing new ground for thinking about, and living in, the built and natural spaces we hold among us.

Some issues considered:

- What are the implications of completely removing what came before? In demolishing a physical structure, do we also remove history, memory, or obligations to a larger social & aesthetic whole?
- Is the empty lot or "void" inherently an anathema to the notion of "city" and the urban condition - a condition predicated on density and maximum use of available space? How do these voids work with or against the establishment of true urban fabric in a city such as Providence?
- How does a small city overcome the conflicts that exist between striving for urbanity and density and the preconditioned requirements of a car-reliant culture (including major space allotments for parking and traffic flow)? Will the result be a sub-urbanized pseudo-urbanity?

FOUND GROUND doesn't presume to answer these questions; instead it intends, through the projected image, to call the public's attention to these voids as zones of creative potential - not static or dead, but latent. The installation will strive to become part of the landscape, a flickering image that will catch and engage the attention of passers-by. Unexpected, glimpsed from between buildings and down alleyways, the installation will highlight relationships between these newly void space and the established spaces around it, thus reconnecting the "void" to the life of the city.

This project is funded in part by the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**.

[continued on next page]

PRESS RELEASE:

FOUND GROUND: A multi-media
Intervention for vacant urban space

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT: Erik Carlson
Telephone: 401.785.1520
Email: erik@areacmusic.com

PROJECT WEBSITE: www.areacmusic.com (Follow the link to "Found Ground")

MORE INFO on the ARTISTS:

Erik Carlson is a composer & media artist who works under the name AREA C. His compositions & sound installations examine the texture & tonal character of sound, working with live loops, cyclical relationships, & the details of audio decay over time. AREA C closely examines the intersection of sound & physical space. In addition to releases on experimental record labels, AREA C has completed commissions for the NASA RI Space Grant Consortium and composed for a permanent interactive installation in Washington DC, which was also featured at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York City. More info on Erik Carlson / AREA C: <http://www.areacmusic.com/index.shtml>

Erik Gould has been inspired by the energy, complexity & chaos of RI's urban landscape. Exploring this visual environment has led Gould to create bodies of work in photography, writing and digital media that reflect landscape both as raw material & cultural artifact. By it's scale and density, RI encouraged Gould in the idea that the State could be contained photographically. This is an admittedly impossible task, but its possibility laid out for Gould this guiding principal: that he could and would seek out everything. More info on Erik Gould: <http://www.erikgould.net/>

Erica Carpenter aims to approach the mobile state of memory & explore the events of memory as a direct output of consciousness at play. She seeks forms that resist or subvert the instinct to organize memory's random events within the context of reason. Memory may arrive against a background of odd images.
More info Erica Carpenter: <http://www.burningdeck.com/catalog/carpenter.htm>

All of the artists are based in Rhode Island.



FOUND GROUND was funded in part by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

[end]

CONTACT: Erik Carlson, 401.785.1520
erik@areacmusic.com
9.12.08 / Page 2 of 2