



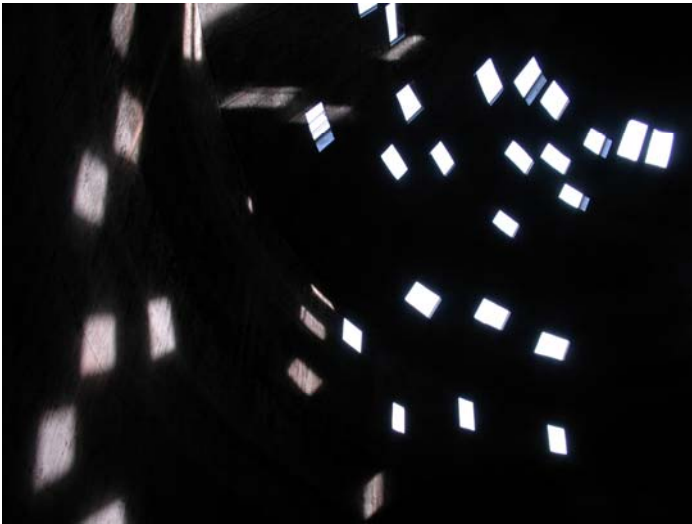
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BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn Presents *the no place* at BRIC Rotunda Gallery

The exhibition conjures unseen, inaccessible, and politically charged spaces to create a dialogue about utopias and dystopias.

Nathan Kensinger, *Dome Lights*, 2006. Digital photograph.



Brooklyn, NY – BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn's first exhibition of 2010 is *the no place*, a group exhibition featuring the work of six contemporary artists who conjure utopian and dystopian environments in distinct ways to explore such issues as geo-political conflict, human rights, urban development, the environment, and most broadly, how we comprehend and utilize physical space. Curated by **Elizabeth Ferrer**, Director of Contemporary Art at BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn, *the no place* opens on **Wednesday, January 20, 2010**. The opening will feature a pre-opening dialogue with exhibition artist and social activist **Paula Luttringer** at 6 pm about

art and the depiction of trauma by enforced political disappearance, followed by a reception from 7 to 9 pm. The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, March 6.

In this era of globalization and digital communication, seemingly limitless information exists about the physical world and the events that take place in it. The advent of Google maps and other web mapping projects means that it is possible to view much of the world from a laptop or cellular phone, and to comprehend both vast sweeps of the landscape and the smallest minutiae. *Nevertheless, much remains unseen*. The world is full of hidden spaces – places that are simply geographically inaccessible, restricted due to political conflict, or made out of bounds because of the furtive activities taking place within them.

Working in varied media (photography, sculpture, video, and works on paper) and with diverse approaches (social activist projects, Internet research, urban exploration, and interviews and oral histories), exhibition artists **Liset Castillo, Nathan Kensinger, Paula Luttringer, Jenny Polak, Blane de St. Croix** and **J.G. Zimmerman** have produced poetic visualizations of unseen, the inaccessible, and politically charged spaces.

The “no place,” as this exhibition is titled, can take many forms. **Nathan Kensinger** pictures the local, focusing on the abandoned and industrial edges of New York. With photographs from varied series documenting Brooklyn sites, Kensinger makes visible places that are off-limit to the public such as he interiors of Admiral's Row in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, have been destroyed either through neglect or

to make way for urban development projects like Red Hook's Revere Sugar Refinery; or have been ignored like isolated stretches of Brooklyn's coastline.

Blane de St. Croix's series "Landscape Sections" includes meticulously detailed dioramas focusing on politically contested areas of the world. In *the no place*, he will exhibit a miniaturized sculptural representation of the border of North and South Korea, portraying both the fence that divides the two countries and the habitats for birds and other wildlife which have flourished in this forbidden zone.

J.G. Zimmerman's *Dystopia Series* is comprised of videos – projected vertically and in large scale -- that create new landscapes produced through the appropriation of satellite imagery from the Internet. His subject matter focuses on the systems and spaces critical to global economies but that are otherwise given little regard – oil tank fields, ocean freight containers, parking lots, or rows of tract housing, all presented as seemingly endless landscapes that merge the real and the fabricated, the utopic and dystopic.

Jenny Polak series of detailed drawings of U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers for illegal immigrants exposes the places where vulnerable individuals have few rights; face unsafe, often harsh conditions; and in several documented cases, have died, typically under mysterious circumstances. ICE currently detains well over 30,000 people in such centers as they await deportation or legal decision on their immigration status. Polak based her images of these otherwise invisible, inaccessible places around the United States on drawings and descriptions by individuals who have been detained in them.

Argentinian Artist **Paula Luttringer** uses black-and-white photography to explore her traumatic past, when she was kidnapped while pregnant and held for five months in a secret detention center as a victim of her nation's 'Dirty War,' a war that held or killed over 30,000 students, protesters, activists and guerilla fighters in secret camps or prisons. Exhibited in New York for the first time in *the no place* exhibition, her haunting series of photographs *El Lamento de Los Muros (The Wailing of the Walls)*, depict the clandestine spaces where she and other women were held and tortured. She currently lives in Paris.

Liset Castillo, born in Cuba and now based in Brooklyn and Holland, fabricated a fictitious city out of sand, a utopian microcosm where fragments of varied cultures have converged, and in some cataclysmic event, toppled upon one another. In photographing her ruined city in monumentally scaled color photographs, she expresses the simultaneous experience of creation and destruction.

In conjunction with *the no place*, BRIC will continue **Moving Wall | Pictures**, a curated film and video series, on **Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm**. Assistant Curator Baseera Khan will curate *Heterotopias*, a group of short films evoking familiar, amusing, yet disturbing landscapes including **James Schneider's** 16mm film *Faerie-Monition* from *The Dystopian Trilogy*, **Kenneth Anger's** film *Mouse Heaven*, and others.

Directions

Located in Brooklyn Heights, BRIC Rotunda Gallery is a short walk from the 2,3; 4,5; M; or R trains at Court Street/Borough Hall; or the A, C trains at High Street.

Hours

The gallery is open to the public free of charge from Tuesday through Saturday, 12 – 6 pm.

Cost

Events at the gallery are free to the public.

BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn is a multi-disciplinary arts and media non-profit dedicated to presenting contemporary art, performing arts, and community media programs that are reflective of Brooklyn's diverse communities, and to providing resources and platforms to support the creative process. All of our offerings are free or low cost, to enhance the public's access to and understanding of arts and media. Each year, upwards of a million people in Brooklyn and citywide are served through our programs.

BRIC's contemporary art initiatives aim is to increase the visibility and accessibility of contemporary art while bridging the gap between the art world and global culture in Brooklyn through exhibitions, public events, and an innovative arts education program at BRIC Rotunda Gallery and around the borough.

BRIC acknowledges public funds for its contemporary art programs from the Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Senators Velmanette Montgomery and Daniel Squadron; New York State Assembly members Inez Barron, Hakeem Jeffries, Alec Brook-Krasny, and Joan Millman; and New York City Council members Lewis Fidler, Vincent Gentile, Letitia James, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Diana Reyna, Kendall Stewart, Al Vann, and David Yassky. The 2009–10 exhibition season is supported in part by Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin, in addition to numerous individuals.



For more info visit bricartsmedia.org/contemporary-art

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