

Half Dozen Presents...

SPACE INVADERS

Artists: Alex Davies, Biljana Jancic, Suzan Liu, Koji Ryui, Sam Smith.

Curated by Half Dozen

Dates: Thursday, 23 March – Saturday 22 April

Opening: 6-9pm, Thursday, 23 March

Downstairs Project Space

Artist: Mimi Tong

Title: *Folding Interface*

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Space, it has been said, is the final frontier. If we disengage this idea from the realm of science fiction we open up a timeless question: how do we come to process the spaces around us, to understand their relation to the materials of our world, their internal and external connectivity, and their lifespan, from birth through to the unknowable death of space – that which we can only understand as a radical Otherness: the Black Hole.

Artists today are not afraid to venture into these uncanny mental and formal territories. The 'Space Invaders' who make up this show are not retro video game fetishists but instead are Artronauts on a mission to build up new spatial experiences anew. In these works invasion meets involution, time and space are played with like a game, and art colonises and de-territorialises the art gallery.

This exhibition draws together six artists who work with spatiality, inflated and modular architectures, with tele-presence and with the spectral effects of new media. In Alex Davies' *Pugilist Series 449*, the viewer is put into the place of a boxer facing down a space-invading opponent, as a POV beating takes place, sped up and sped down and matched with the location sound of the artist takes the punches – the true artists suffering for his work, and on our behalf. Sam Smith's *Passage*, projected onto a large scale installed aeroplane chair hand-made by the artist, gives the sense of an in-flight viewing experience. Set in a strange post-cinema world, this work explores how we inhabit new media spaces, drawing on film history, the experience of the cinema, and the technical vocabulary of new media production.

Three installation artists have installed work in the main gallery, all of which were patiently constructed in the space in which you are now standing. In *Construction # 2*, Koji Ryui presents a large-scale modular sculpture of intersecting white planes which connect to take on a molecular sort of volume, organically arising out of piles of awaiting planes and shards of foamcore to wind its way through the space of the gallery. Biljana Jancic inflates everyday mundane plastic bags and constructs them into a poetic and free-flowing sculptural assemblage, using only air gathered in the space by the artist, with the hardness of the plastic bags trapping the natural elements contained within the gallery in a way that unconsciously mirrors Davies' boxing gloves. On the main wall, Suzan Liu has installed a complex and ornamental wall-work which turns networking cables into a unique physical narrative of connectedness. There is a story here, and although it is known in full only to the artist, we do know that you are looking at a map of a relationship between two discrete things (People? Flows of information?) which twist and turn, finding relief after tension and ultimately coalescing into one.

In the downstairs project space, Mimi Tong is showing her *Folding Interface*, which challenges gallery space in the form of art materials, bent, stretched and reconfigured into a folded architectonic maze, as if the canvases, with their stately references to the high modernist constructions of the twentieth century, is mutating and repossessing the gallery space. The works in *Space Invaders* all deal with the intersections of form and space, the weaving together of divergent materials and shapes into a show that resonates in a poetic and highly contemporary way.

Dr Dougal Phillips

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Mimi Tong, *Folding Interface* (reconfigured for 4A), 2005, wood, canvas, acrylic paint.

Upstairs Gallery

Koji Ryui, *Construction #2*, 2006, foamcore.

Suzan Liu, *Study in Chaos (aperiodic thought-factors)*, 2006, network cables.

Biljana Jancic, *Untitled*, 2006, plastic bags.

Roomette 1

Alex Davies, *Pugilist Series 449*, 2006, video.*

Roomette 2

Sam Smith, *Passage*, 2006, video, sound, plywood, glass, Perspex.

*This work was commissioned for the project 'Grudge Match' exhibiting at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne as part of the 'Next Wave Festival: Empire Games'. Exhibition dates 10th March to 8th April 2006. Thanks to Tania Doropoulos.

For all enquiries regarding the artists and their work, please contact Dougal Phillips on 0402 063 828.

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