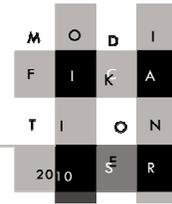


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PRESS RELEASE

Christina Hemauer & Roman Keller: United Alternative Energies Curated by Latitudes

The Aarhus Art Building, Centre for Contemporary Art, Denmark
January 22 - April 3, 2011

Investigation of energy

Swiss artists Christina Hemauer and Roman Keller investigate energy – as an allegorical concept, an invisible force, and a defining theme of geopolitics and modernity. One of the main focuses of their practice is the history of oil and the fate and future of its competing alternatives, notably solar power.

In this exhibition, the most expansive presentation of their work to date, Hemauer and Keller make use of a range of strategies – re-enactment and performance, as well as documentary video, sculpture and text. Their work often provides an opportunity to revitalize key historical moments. For example, the 66 minute documentary essay *A Road Not Taken* (2010) examines former US President Jimmy Carter's early and ultimately futile efforts to raise awareness about oil dependency, as symbolized by the installation, in 1979, of solar panels on the White House roof.

Also featured in the exhibition is *No.1 Sun Engine* (2008–9). In 1913, American inventor Frank Shuman inaugurated the first large-scale solar power generator near Cairo, Egypt. Although it was economically viable compared to coal power, the plant was only used for one year. The artists reconstructed two segments of this pioneering facility and established an information kiosk where local residents and passers-by could discover and contribute to its story.

Globalising the Internationale (2006–ongoing) is a choral work which refers to the songs of socialism and the workers' movements – one of the most widespread social upheavals of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. With this project, the artists aim to use the collective force of the human voice to herald a new age of alternative energy beyond fossil fuels.

Hemauer and Keller's work asserts the human species' place in ecological thinking by locating its eco-aesthetics firmly in relation to politics and social structures. *United Alternative Energies* is their first show in Denmark and their first solo show in the Nordic countries. The exhibition launches the theme, *IMAGINE – towards an eco-aesthetic*, which will be the focus point for the Aarhus Art Building during 2011.

About the Artists

Christina Hemauer (1973) and Roman Keller (1969) live and work in Zurich, Switzerland. Exhibitions and projects include *Globalising the Internationale*, commission for *Portscapes* (2009) and exhibition *Portscapes*, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2010); the 11th Cairo International Biennale, Cairo (2008–9), *Nettoyage énergétique*, Contemporary Art Center Fribourg (2007), *A Manifestation, a Dedication and a Place to get the Word out*, Swiss Art Awards, Basel (2007); *At this place, Postpetrolism was heralded on 27 April 2006*, Kunsthof, Zurich (2006).

About the curators

Latitudes is a Barcelona-based curatorial office directed by Max Andrews and Mariana Cánepa Luna. Several of their projects have explored art in relation to ecology and 'post-environmentalism'. They recently curated *Portscapes*, a year-long series of public commissions developed in the context of the construction of 'Maasvlakte 2', a 2,000 hectare expansion to the Port of Rotterdam.

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