

REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release
September 26, 2011

The Experimental Impulse November 18 – January 15, 2011

Co-organized by Thomas Lawson and Aram Moshayedi
Exhibition design by Martin Kersels and Thomas Lawson



Gallery Hours: Tuesdays–Sundays from noon until 6:00pm
Opening reception: Saturday, November 19 | 6–9pm
Admission: Free

REDCAT | Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater
631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-237-2800 | www.redcat.org

LOS ANGELES, CA — *The Experimental Impulse* explores the pivotal role of experimentation in Los Angeles in the years immediately following the city's emergence as a vital artistic center. The exhibition offers new insights into the understanding of developments in critical art practice after 1965 and bridges the gap between these histories and more recent approaches to artmaking. Consisting exclusively of reproductions and facsimiles of materials culled from publications, institutions, and personal collections, as well as a series of recent video and audio interviews conducted for the exhibition, *The Experimental Impulse* reflects on the networks of exchange and support structures that underlie the history of art in Los Angeles.

This collection of interviews, filmed and edited by Larissa Brantner James, focuses on a selection of key figures who shaped the city's cultural landscape through various forms of patronage and artist-motivated initiatives. The exhibition includes original interviews with such individuals as Robert Smith, founding director of the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art (1974-85); Dorit Cypis, co-director of Foundation for Art Resources (1979-82); Marc Pally, first executive director of LACE (1979-83); Gemini G.E.L. co-founder and patron Stanley Grinstein; collectors Judy and Stuart Spence; and many others.

With contributions by participants in "The Experimental Impulse" seminars at CalArts' School of Art (2009/10 and 2010/11), the exhibition operates from a position that context informs content and develops an open-ended methodology that has been characteristic of CalArts since its founding. Conceived from the perspective of artists and art students who currently live and work in the city, the exhibition's curatorial approach reexamines the very notion of historical representation and aims to embody the principles of experimentation.

The exhibition's scope and content has been largely guided by a group of current and recent CalArts students, whose respective research forms the basis of *The Experimental Impulse* and attempts to offer an account of this history from the perspective of artists currently living and working in Los Angeles. Topics covered in the exhibition include the intersection between Conceptual art and pedagogy (Fiona Connor); the critical role played by art magazines and publications (Krista Buecking); video and the exploration of new technologies (Yogi Proctor); the history of the late CalArts Design School (Benjamin Tong); and the influence of country music in the early Los Angeles punk scene (Ariane Roesch). *The Experimental Impulse* presents the outgrowth of the students' research, which takes the form of recorded conversations with artists, writers, designers, editors, curators and collectors, as well as selections of images and various printed materials that have been uncovered throughout the research process. The seminars and exhibition at REDCAT attempt to address the problem surrounding the organization and display of materials that have, by their experimental and ephemeral nature, attempted to evade history.

In conjunction with the exhibition at REDCAT, *East of Borneo*, a collaborative art journal and multimedia archive, hosts a selection of commissioned essays, documentation, interviews and research materials related to the process of organizing *The Experimental Impulse*. Edited by Stacey Allan, this archival component to the exhibition offers an alternative approach to the role of catalogues and print publications.

The Experimental Impulse web page: www.redcat.org/exhibition/experimental-impulse
Exhibition catalogue on *East of Borneo*: www.eastofborneo.org/topics/the-experimental-impulse

Funding Credit

The exhibition and archival project are made possible through lead grants from the Getty Foundation.

The Experimental Impulse is part of Pacific Standard Time. This unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, brings together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California for six months beginning October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.



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About REDCAT

REDCAT, the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, is an interdisciplinary contemporary arts center for innovative visual, performing and media arts located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

The Gallery at REDCAT aims to support, present, commission and nurture new creative insights through dynamic projects and challenging ideas. The Gallery presents five exhibitions every year, often of newly commissioned work that represents the artist's first major presentation in the U.S. or Los Angeles. The Gallery also maintains an active publishing program producing as many as two major monographs per year. Proceeding from the geographic and cultural specificities of Los Angeles, its program emphasizes artistic production of the Pacific Rim—namely Mexico, Central and South America and Asia—as regions that are of vital significance to California. The Gallery aims to facilitate dialogue between local and international artists contributing to a greater understanding of the social, political and cultural contexts that inform contemporary artistic practice.

REDCAT 2011-12 Season Sponsors include media sponsor KCRW, official hotel sponsor The Standard Hotel Downtown and official piano of REDCAT Yamaha. Full REDCAT Acknowledgments can be found online at www.redcat.org/support/acknowledgements.

Location and Contact

REDCAT is located at the corner of W. 2nd and Hope Streets, inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles (631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012). Additional information is available online at www.redcat.org or by phone, 213-237-2800.

Hours and Admission

The Gallery at REDCAT is open Tuesdays through Sundays from noon to 6:00pm or until intermission. It is closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the Gallery at REDCAT is always free.

Image Caption

Michael Asher, installation at LAICA, Los Angeles, 1977. Photo by Robert Smith.

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