

OTIS

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MEDIA RELEASE

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The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is pleased to present the exhibition:

The Future Imaginary

January 24 - March 28, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 24, 4-6pm

The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is pleased to present the exhibition *The Future Imaginary*, opening January 24, 2009 with a public reception for the artists from 4-6pm. On view through March 28, 2009, the exhibition features work by 11 artists whose work responds to the new interactive DVD novel *The Imaginary 20th Century* by Norman Klein, Margo Bistis and Andreas Kratky. The exhibition is sponsored by OTIS Ben Maltz Gallery and Public Programs, OTIS Board of Governors, The Center for Integrated Media at California Institute of the Arts, The David Bermant Foundation, and The Durfee Foundation. Exhibition related programming includes a conversation with Tom Leeser, Norman Klein and Margo Bistis on Sunday, February 8 at 4pm, and an exhibition tour led by the curators Tom Leeser and Meg Linton on Saturday, March 28, 11am.

Exhibition Curators Tom Leeser, Director of the Center for Integrated Media at California Institute of the Arts, and Meg Linton, Director of OTIS Ben Maltz Gallery and Public Programs, worked in collaboration with author Norman Klein and historian Margo Bistis to create this dynamic, kinetic and provocative interpretation of man's need to envision the future. The curators and artists are engaging with the novel by assembling work in response to Klein's interest in what he calls the "misremembering of the future." Featured artists previewed the DVD novel, and responded by creating a new work or submitting an existing work that engages the premise.

Featured Artists

Deborah Aschheim www.deborahaschheim.com

Jeff Cain http://www.artleak.org/civicmatters/bio_cain.html

Tom Jennings <http://wps.com/>

Jon Kessler <http://www.jonkessler.com/>

Ed Osborn www.roving.net

Lea Rekow www.learekow.com/

Douglas Repetto <http://music.columbia.edu/~douglas/portfolio/index.shtml>

Phil Ross www.philross.org

Kari Rae Seekins www.kariraeseekins.com and Aaron Drake www.aarondrake.org

Susan Simpson www.manualarchives.org/susan.htm

DVD-Rom/Novel: *The Imaginary 20th Century*

by Margo Bistis, Norman Klein, Andreas Kratky

The Imaginary 20th Century is a journey into comic and perverse phantoms – factual, and at the same time, very fictional. It contains a double story: the story of the century that opened at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and the story of a woman (Carrie), who in 1901, selects four men to seduce her, each with his own version of the new century.

In Europe and America, between 1895 and 1926, there was not simply one 'imaginary 20th century.' Dazzling visions repeated and overlapped in seemingly endless nuances, like traveling through phantoms of an imaginary future fed by a single engine. In this project, that engine is a historical science-fiction novel that operates as a gigantic interactive database of 2,200 images with an original sound composition. The images are harvested from period illustration, cartoons, photographs, film, ephemera, industrial design, architectural drawing, urban planning schemes, science fiction, fantasy and utopian novels, and more. This collaborative venture follows up on Klein's award-winning interactive novel *Bleeding Through: Layers of Los Angeles, 1920-1986* (2003). Like *Bleeding Through*, *The Imaginary 20th Century* is a new narrative form appropriate to the digital age at the end of a consumer-driven century. It is being released as a DVD-Rom with an accompanying book by Verso in Spring 2009.

Event Schedule:

- *The Future Imaginary* is on view: January 24 – March 28, 2009
- Opening Reception for the artists: Saturday, January 24, 4-6pm
- Conversation with Tom Leaser, Norman Klein and Margo Bistis: Sunday, February 8, 4pm
- Exhibition tour with curators: Saturday, March 28, 11am



L-R: Deborah Ascheim, *Earworm (node)*, 2008; Tom Jennings, *Model 17 Audible Detector*, 1997; Jon Kessler, *Noriko*, 1994; Phil Ross, *Junior Return*, 2005

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking & Admission: Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.

Hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed major holidays

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups

Gallery Info: 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu/benmaltzgalleries

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