

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Abstract Places: Mediating the Built Environment

Mark Beasley, Daniel Everett, Daniel Giordan, Scott Jarrett

October 28—November 26, 2011

Gallery hours: Wednesday—Saturday 11-5

Opening Reception: October 28, 6-9 pm

Robert Bills Contemporary is pleased to present the opening *Abstract Places: Mediating the Built Environment*. This group exhibition brings together four artists whose work transforms our everyday encounters with the built environment through a wide range of media including sculpture, video, photography and the Internet. These artists' works translate the homogenous spaces of modern life into particularized places, envisioning the possibility of artistic mediation as a source for renewed modes of seeing, traversing, and identifying with our environment.

Abstract Places presents the viewer with a paradox: places, objects, and images that are at once familiar and strange. Here, the familiarity of these non-places, conjured by images of suburban houses, alleyways, airport towers, and discarded domestic refuse, is undermined in each case through diverse artistic interventions.

Mark Beasley's interactive work, *Text Map (Map my Submissions)*, explores virtual mapping and the ways in which we traverse the urban landscape. Beasley cracked into Google Maps' programming in order to allow viewers to submit poems or other texts as a search, inducing the site to plot a route based off the results. These text-based searches can yield either offbeat returns or chilling matches, resulting in alternative ways to map or navigate a space.

Daniel Everett's videos and photographs draw attention to the disjunctive character of modern experience. Everett's work gives visual form to the ubiquitous presence of technological mediation in our daily life and explores how it affects perceptions of our surroundings as we traverse our environment. Exploring spatial practices in both the real and virtual worlds, Everett's work critically engages with the relationships between architecture, art, and technology.

Daniel Giordan's rich, over-painted photographs employ the architecture of the built environment as a literal base. Images of houses and alleys are built up with layers of paint, which serve as visual barriers abstracting otherwise ordinary and recognizable images. In creating material barriers with paint, Giordan complicates the relationship between public and private space, as well as between abstraction and representation.

Scott Jarrett's sculptures investigate urban remains using a variety of mundane materials such as abandoned mattresses, tires, broken dressers, and cabinet doors. Through his playful and thoughtful appropriation and alteration of the refuse of domestic consumer culture, Jarrett compels his viewers to become aware of the uniqueness of the discarded objects of everyday life.

Robert Bills Contemporary is dedicated to finding and introducing artists in all media whose work embodies well-executed conceptual depth. It was named one of the top ten hottest galleries at NEXT 2010. The gallery is located in Chicago's West Loop at 222 North Desplaines Street at Lake on the lower level. For general inquiries please contact the Gallery Director, Hannah Klemm, at hannah@robertbillscontemporary.com, or call 312.234.9091.