

OPENSATELLITE

A RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

For Immediate Release

SIMPARCH

CURATED BY ABIGAIL GUAY

Exhibition Dates: August 19-October 3, 2009

Opening Event: Wednesday, August 19, 6-9 PM at Open Satellite

Artist Lecture: Friday, August 7, 7:30 PM at the Henry Art Gallery auditorium

Location: 989 112th Ave NE, Ste 102, Bellevue, WA 98004

Contact: Voice: 425 454 7355 / Email: info@opensatellite.org

Web: www.opensatellite.org

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 PM, second Thursday of the month 12-8 PM

Founded in 1996 as a collective of four artists based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, SIMPARCH creates architecturally-scaled work that offers an experimental and populist perspective on the built environment. Working primarily with new and salvaged construction materials, SIMPARCH questions form and function through installations that address (and employ) utility, history, narrative, and form.

SIMPARCH's early work – including *Hell's Trailer* (1996), a collection of hand-painted roadside billboards assembled into a vacation travel trailer, and *Free Basin* (2000), a functional, elevated skatebowl displayed (and skated on) in a half-dozen locations, including Deitch Projects in New York and Documenta 11 in Kassel, Germany – adopted the mood and aesthetics of America's counter- and nomadic cultures. SIMPARCH has since surveyed environmental and military-industrial concerns, opening the dialogue to include the empirical and physical structures of authority – either by altering traditional frameworks or introducing independent solutions. (*Dirty Water Initiative* (2005) is a set of small-scale, solar-powered water distillers designed for, and eventually gifted to, individuals living in low or no infrastructure environments.)

In 1999 and again in 2003, SIMPARCH participated in the Center for Land Use Interpretation's artist residency program. The ensuing work is heavily influenced in both instances by the history and military architecture of the residency location: a WWII airbase in Wendover, UT. The 2003 (and ongoing) installation, *Clean Livin'*, is a Quonset hut redesigned to function as an autonomous living facility through the introduction of solar and man-powered technologies. The following year, the influence of the Wendover residencies extended beyond the base location in the form of a modified contemporary Quonset hut installed by SIMPARCH in the Whitney Museum's sculpture court as part of the 2004 Biennial. The artwork, titled *El Tubo Completo*, was a structural addendum to the museum in the form of a cinema.

989 112 AVE NE
SUITE 102
BELLEVUE WA
98004
V. 425 454 7355
F. 425 454 7346

SIMPARCH is a contraction of “simple” and “architecture.” The two founding members, Steve Badgett and Matt Lynch, now based in Chicago and Cincinnati respectively, will be collaborating in Bellevue on the Open Satellite installation.

About Open Satellite:

Open Satellite is a contemporary art exhibition hall for the Seattle metropolitan area. The residency-based program provides an opportunity for emerging and mid-career artists from outside the region to work for an extended period to create large-scale artwork in any medium. Exhibitions are staged four times annually with every fifth show focused on architecture as a critical position.

Media contact: Abigail Guay, Exhibitions Director, abigail@opensatellite.org