

For Immediate Release

Seth Kinmont, *Vehicle*
Curated by Elizabeth A. Brown

Exhibition Dates: May 20-July 3, 2009

Opening Event: Wednesday, May 20, 6-9 PM at Open Satellite

Artist Talk: Thursday, May 28, 7 PM at the Henry Art Gallery auditorium (\$5/free to members)

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

During his residency and exhibition at Open Satellite, New York based artist Seth Kinmont will be in continuous production of three wooden electric cars. The vehicles – a three-seat urban touring coach, an all-terrain vehicle, and a two-person coup – are the result of the artist’s pragmatic approach to the need for a vehicle: Kinmont reviewed his material and fabrication options, the tools and objects most readily available, and he undertook to produce what he could build, with his own two hands and with the help of such collaborators as a high school metal shop student and an Amish wheel-maker. His electric vehicle designs feature metal chasses and drive mechanisms, but are also equipped with hand-worked wooden frames, components of historical buggy models, and design flourishes that absurdly decrease the drivability of the vehicles.

The vehicles exhibited in *Vehicle* are only one aspect of Kinmont’s ongoing development and promotion of a concept central to his practice: a self-devised investment algorithm. In the mid ‘90s, the artist – a California native – was eyewitness to the height of the dot-com bubble and the hand-over-fist financial success of companies and individuals investing in IT startups. By rationally and systematically studying investment returns and trends, Kinmont hit on a system of investment that he effectively put in motion with his own capital.

To share his process and to create functional, observable analogues, Kinmont has produced five artist editions, or “kits,” the most literal of which is a stock trading package that includes investment guidelines, in the form of ruler and an assortment of tools for calculation and bookkeeping. Other kits illustrate or evoke changes of states of being, which the artist sees as corresponding to market functions. These include a still for distilling wine – over the course of meal – into eau-de-vie and a set of expository fireworks meant to be shot off, pressed flat, and framed.

With *Vehicle*, Kinmont introduces the American automobile, the allure and history of independence and travel, to his investment project. And by evoking early buggy styles, the artist

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combines the United States' European heritage with Manifest Destiny, innovation, and the open road.

Kinmont will use his talk at the Henry, titled *Coloscion* (colossus/discussion), to relate his artwork to his investment practice and to outline his Colossus Fund, a self-driven fund for artists.

About the Curator:

Elizabeth A. Brown has been the Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions & Collections at the Henry Art Gallery in Seattle since 2000. She has curated over 40 exhibitions, including mid-career surveys of Kiki Smith and Lari Pittman, *WOW (The Work of the Work)*; and *150 Works of Art*, an innovative display of the permanent collection. Brown earned her A.B. from the University of Michigan and M.A., M. Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York. In completing her thesis on the photographs of Constantin Brancusi she held predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships from CASVA at the National Gallery. In 2008 she participated in the Museum Leadership Institute, administered by the Getty Center.

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.

Open Satellite was formed in 2007 and is sustained by Su Development.

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