

The Fellows of Contemporary Art presents

From A to B

An exhibition curated by Donna Conwell

Featuring Bulbo, Bia Gayotto, Elana Mann, Vincent Ramos, Linda Samuels and Jane Tsong

March 6 – May 3, 2008

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 6, 2008, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Curator Talk: Thursday, April 17, 7:30PM

From A to B presents six Los Angeles-based artists conducting urban investigations into the psychological, spatial, and discursive field of the commute. By exploring, mapping, and intervening in familiar commuter routes traversed on a daily basis, Bulbo, Bia Gayotto, Elana Mann, Vincent Ramos, Linda Samuels and Jane Tsong challenge us to reconsider our relationship to a space occupied by the average Angeleno for over 368 hours per year—the equivalent of fifteen 24-hour days.

The city comprises overlapping spaces of staying and going. If the commute from A to B is the condition of being between one place and another, should we conceptualize the commute as "out of place"? What occurs in this strange, overlooked conduit between here and there? The environments of home and work are not absent—rather, they seep into this liminal zone when the commuter fields calls, contemplates details from the workday, or zones out in Zen-like meditative repose. Is the space of the commute a threshold between two points of mooring—a space of passage traversed by the social body as it transitions between private and public selves? Is it a mobile office, used to meet domestic and professional obligations that overflow their spatial boundaries? Or does the condition of being neither here nor there have another underlying quality that we have yet to recognize and explore?

From the oral testimonies of eleven commuters in Los Angeles and Iraq that are woven together to create a sound map, to a series of video travelogues that document the journey from Altadena to Long Beach by foot, by train and by car, to tracing a commute from Highland Park to San Marino by planting native California poppies on patches of exposed earth along the route, the projects in *From A to B* prompt us to revisit the in-between space of the commute.

Throughout the exhibition and in a series of related off-site activities, audiences are encouraged to revisit the itinerant space of their own commute and join us in probing its potential meaning.

From A to B is the second exhibition in a quarterly series of curatorial projects, entitled **Curator's Laboratory**, at FOCA's headquarters in Los Angeles' Chinatown. The Curator's Laboratory project series greatly enhances FOCA's mission of supporting emerging and mid-career California artists by reaching out to young curators who will present exhibitions in support of a curatorial thesis. In keeping with FOCA's historical goal to provide documentation of each exhibition, records of the curator's process of conceptualizing and organizing each exhibition will be posted on FOCA's website at focala.org/projects. Over time this series of curatorial projects and associated web support will generate - for students, artists, curators, and the public - a valuable archive resource.

The Fellows of Contemporary Art (FOCA) is a non-profit independent art organization that supports contemporary art in California by underwriting the costs of exhibitions, catalogues, and other documentation. FOCA was formed in 1975 as a direct outgrowth of a support group of the Pasadena Art Museum. In addition to supporting exhibitions and artists, FOCA provides educational opportunities for its membership. These opportunities include visiting artists' studios, viewing private and public collections, touring other art venues, and providing discussions and lectures with guest speakers. FOCA organizes one domestic and one international tour for members each year.

FOCA is located at 970 N. Broadway, Suite 208, Los Angeles, CA 90012. www.focala.org
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