

*making space* will bring together five artists and artist collectives, whose work develops outside authoritarian systems, creating or referencing minor acts of rebellion. The artists included have not been selected to voice political views about theories such as Foucault's notion of 'the society of control', but instead, to suggest alternative tactics of escape and possible ways to improvise within these structures. Their art works critique the meanings and modes of operation in the contemporary city and suggest ways of imagining a future urban make-up that is created by those engaging directly with the city and its everyday spaces.

The included artists have been chosen for their interest in urban street and youth culture, influenced by their home cities as well as more global considerations. There is a combined interest in the freedom of expression and in finding ways to exist as an individual outside group mentality and authoritarian structures. All the artists selected are young and just breaking in to the international art scene. Their works are therefore quite experimental, and possess a youthful vitality and excitement in their execution. The ideas they present relate both to their peers and because aspects of youth culture never change, also to the past memories of an older audience, who have the opportunity to relive moments of their youth through the work.

#### Artists:

Six artists make up the collective PAC from Switzerland and for the exhibition they will host a series of dance contests throughout the city of Istanbul. On the days prior to the opening they will set up dance sites in local districts and invite the public to dance to their favourite music. The resulting documentation will be exhibited in the gallery itself, presenting a cross-over of music taste and cultural exchange.

Artist Can Altay will present his studies of the mini-bar culture that occurs in Ankara. The mini-bars are located in the spaces that exist between residential or commercial apartment buildings, but which are not intentionally provided for such activities. Altay's work examines structures created by the protagonists of these mini-bars as well as those installed by the authorities to try and discourage them.

Robin Rhode will show animations that comment on the notion of street play in the urban sphere. He will also produce an in-situ wall drawing for the exhibition, influenced by his initial experiences of the city. This will take place as a performance at the opening on July 10th at 7pm.

The winners of the best young artist under 35 years of age at the Venice Biennale; Oliver Payne and Nick Relph will screen the work *Mix-tape*. The video examines urban improvisation and youth culture, questioning the use of our architectural environment and monitoring behavioural devices.

Finally the video *Homewrecker* by artist Alex Morrison will be shown on monitor in the space. *Homewrecker* documents a group of youths enacting the destruction of the house that they live in using props such as skateboards. 'The video is a formal exploration into concepts of the architectural uncanny as well as youth culture's enactment of sublime or euphoric states'.

The exhibition is not about finding alternative places, it is about finding alternative ways of using the space, architecture and social systems that exist all around us. For example, it could be as simple as using a pair of bollards to function as a football goal or using the seating benches and handrails in a park to create a skateboard park. The act of urban skateboarding is a good way to consider these ideas and architect Iain Borden will discuss ways of rethinking the city through different urban practices such as skateboarding at 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## Events ::: **Making Space**

The form of *making space* will be based around a series of performances, screenings, events and installation that together combine to form a loose and constantly changing exhibition structure. Work on display in the gallery deals with spatial appropriations that challenge our understanding of the functions of the built environment, as well as suggesting ways to re-imagine the city through different urban practices such as graffiti and skateboarding.

- 8 July, 7pm                      lecture by Iain Borden  
Organised to coincide with the exhibition, Iain Borden, Director of the Bartlett School of Architecture and Professor of Architecture and Urban Culture, University College London, will speak at Platform on 8 July at 7pm. Iain Borden is an architectural historian and urban commentator. His wide-ranging historical and theoretical interests have lead to publications on, among other subjects, critical theory, architectural historical methodology and the history of skateboarding as an urban practice.
- 10 July, 1pm                      Exhibition opens
- 10 July, 7pm                      performance by Robin Rhode in Platform
- 9 – 15 July                        PAC activities in the city
- 11 and 17 July, 7pm Screening of *Gentlemen* and *Essential Collection* by Oliver Payne and Nick Relph
- 15 July, 7pm                      Winner of PAC dance competition announced at Platform

Other events and details of the dance contests will be available at Platform during the opening week of the exhibition.