

ART IN GENERAL

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eteam

International Airport Montello

January 27-March 31, 2007

Opening Reception Saturday, January 27

For Immediate Release (October 31, 2006) As part of its New Commissions Program, Art in General is pleased to announce *International Airport Montello*, a series of public interventions culminating in a multi-channel video installation by eteam, a New York-based art collective formed by Franziska Lamprecht and Hajoe Moderegger.

Like all of eteam's projects, *International Airport Montello* has primarily to do with testing boundaries. It includes but is far from limited to eteam's production of events and memories in collaboration with the 67 citizens of Montello, Nevada, a place off the beaten track that its inhabitants proudly refer to as "the town that refuses die." Prior to visiting Montello in 2004, eteam purchased a 10-acre plot of nearby land on eBay for \$1,900. Upon visiting their geographic holdings (which they bought based on affordability rather than any particular interest in Montello), eteam discovered that the town has an abandoned airstrip some 6,000 feet in length.

Since January of 2006, the circulation of photographs and videos and the launch of a wiki-website made collaboratively by eteam and the residents of Montello, (<http://www.internationalairportmontello.com>) have complicated and constituted the so-called existence of the airport.

In fall 2006, eteam and a group of curators, writers, arts patrons and arts professionals visited the "International Airport Montello" in Nevada. The trip's purpose was to stage a protracted layover and reactivation of the airstrip. With the support of Art in General, eteam and Montello residents revamped both public and private spaces to transform the town into "a place like any other airport."* Townspeople executed activities as airport representatives and travelers on windswept plains, suggesting both possibilities and limitations; the creation of an ersatz terminal and the institution of other design elements such as airport bars, restaurants and stores explored the difference between the generic and the specific, the imagined and the actual. All who participated in the event assumed functional roles, including those of stewardess, airport shuttle driver, airport staff and passengers.

International Airport Montello also involved a daytrip by eteam, their film crew and invited guests to another defunct airfield in Brooklyn, Floyd Bennett Field, which now operates as part of the National Park Service. There, they learned about the airport's history from a park ranger and enacted a plane-departing performance, which was captured on video. Footage of eteam's excursions to Montello and Brooklyn, and footage of their discussion about land art on June 7, 2006 at The New School as well their waiting room, complete with fast food, crossword puzzles and stacked luggage created at Sara Meltzer Gallery on July 19, 2006, will be on view at Art in General's newly renovated 6th floor gallery.

*In describing the type of space they create, eteam quotes Gillian Fuller in *Life in Transit: between Airport and Camp* "In other words, airports enact another way of thinking about global relationships. They quite literally operate through a "network logic" that critically animates the categories of nation states and territory, of humans, animals, products and machines, and of material and informational modes of mobility."

About the Artists

eteam's members are Franziska Lamprecht and Hajoe Moderegger. Their work is guided by a process of understanding the circumstances and possibilities of a specific place or site. They have worked in such sites as skyscrapers, public parks, the internet and the desert. Their projects have been recently featured in exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center and Momenta in New York City; The Soap Factory in Minneapolis; Grizedale Arts in England in Liverpool and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, among other places. To develop the International Airport Montello, the eteam has participated in the Center for Land Use Interpretation residency in Wendover, Utah. For more information, please visit www.meineigenheim.org.

New Commissions Program

Art in General's New Commissions program, which directly supports artists in the development of their work from early inception and research through the production and exhibition phases, is made possible by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of

learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the Booth Ferris Foundation. Additional support has been provided by Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Jerome Foundation and George Mills. Additional support for the team's International Airport Montello has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and informs and engages the public about their work.

In 25 years, the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists can exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Art in General has exhibited the work of nearly 5,000 artists working across a wide range of media.

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