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Electronic images available upon request

Macro and Micro cosmologies are explored in the newest
Wood Street Galleries Exhibit:
"Out of this World"

Friday, July 11 – Saturday, September 13, 2008

Artist Talk: Saturday, July 12, 1 p.m.

PITTSBURGH—Wood Street Galleries proudly presents installations by Jean-Pierre Aube, Maria Antelman, Vera-Maria Glahn, Marcus Wendt and Gail Wight in the exhibit "Out of this World." The artists investigate macro and micro cosmologies in the form of an interactive installation, video installations and photography.

The exhibit opens on Friday, July 11, 2008, in conjunction with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's quarterly Gallery Crawl, with a free reception from 5:30-9 p.m. The show ends Saturday, September 13, 2008.

Jean-Pierre Aube will be at the Wood Street Galleries on July 12 at 1 p.m. to further describe his distinct works in an Artist Talk.

Jean-Pierre Aube Artist and programmer, Jean-Pierre Aube holds an MFA from Université du Québec à Montréal. His work has consistently used recuperative technology and data acquisition systems to question nature. Since 2000, he has worked on capturing the sounds of the aurora borealis through the use of very low frequency receivers. His **VLF.Natural Radio** project is being presented as a flat screen video work.

The artist writes that:

VLF frequencies are almost unclouded by man-made telecommunications transmissions. But as the digital and wireless technologies evolve, the use of these frequencies for communications is overriding the naturally produced waves of the northern lights and other climate-related signals. For example, Russian nuclear submarines and American military beacon use VLF frequencies to communicate. These man-made signals override the natural phenomena active on the low frequency spectrum. Eventually, VLF waves will be completely drowned out by the signals of various telecommunication systems.

Also being presented, the video installation "**Titan**". The artist writes:

To produce the video I started by programming a software which organises the data and arranges them in charts. The title is a direct reference to a 2001 : Space Odyssey scene, Jupiter, and Beyond the Infinite, also known as the Stargate Sequence. The scene was created by Douglas Trumbull. At the time, Trumbull was a graphic artist for the NASA. He adapted for cinema a technique named slit-scan and used before by photographers. Using long exposure time along with camera movement, the technique creates the illusion of movement. In my video, the Huygens data are parsed in a database and then organized into graphics. The data like the altitude and

the speed of Huygens or the density of the atmosphere of Titan are analysed by my software creating images using the slit-scan technique.

Vera-Maria Glahn and Marcus Wendt: will present their interactive video installation, "**The Orbiter**".

"**The Orbiter**" takes possession of all senses. It is a place for visitors to lay down and relax, watching the projection above them. With a small gesture, just pointing upwards, the visitor can insert new stars into orbit with unique visual and musical characteristics. The dream of reaching for the stars is as old as mankind itself. The mathematics of planetary orbits, the perfection of natural geometrical forms fascinates and inspires scientists and artists alike. Even music principles as tonality or phase displacement are based upon computational ideas and find correspondency in "**The Orbiter`s**" structure.

The music is played on a scale of concentric circles, visible in some of the scenes, with higher tones on the larger, basses on the smaller circles. The bigger you let a star grow before you pull back your hand to insert it into orbit, the louder it plays.

Like the stars orbit on the large ceiling screen above the player, the surround sound orbits in the room on 4 high-tone-channels, supported by a sub bass and a solid bourne sound speaker underneath the player`s couch, making low basses physically sensible.

Each version of "**The Orbiter**" features various scenes with different graphics, sounds and behaviour. Some create an illusionary night sky firmament, playing more melodic or ambient sounds. Others experiment with the possibilities of graphical abstraction and rough synths, allowing you to even play drum`n bass-like sounds.

Vera-Maria Glahn born 1983, Glahn studied Visual Communication at the School of Art and Design in Kassel, Germany, focusing on the design of interaction, of structures and systems as well as on curatorial and productional work.

Since 2004, Glahn has implemented the Live Visuals program of the annual Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival(GER), which includes a 4 nights program of experimental audiovisual performances in analogue and digital media, as well as club visuals, party nights and the bar logistics. The program is selected from an open call for proposals and in close relation to the online Platform SENDUNG.net for Live Visuals and Experimental Video, which she developed together with Marcus Wendt and ran since summer 2005.

Marcus Wendt is a 23-year-old artist and designer working in the field of digital media and audiovisual communication. He currently studies in the classes of Prof. Joel Baumann (New Media) and Prof. Bjørn Melhus (Virtual Realities) at the School of Arts and Design, Kassel. Since his enrolment to the Art School in Kassel, he became most interested in interactivity and the development of playful installations for the applied and artistic context. Ideas were often realised in collaboration with illustrators, artists or computer hackers.

Gail Wight shows photographs of smashed test tubes, titled **Blow Out**, 2006. Wight holds her BFA in Interrelated Media from Massachusetts College of Arts and her MFA in New Genres from the San Francisco Art Institute. In attempts to understand thinking I have:

made maps of various nervous systems, practiced art while under hypnosis, designed an artificial intelligence to read my tarot, read for hours to fish, conducted biochemical experiments on myself and others, executed medical illustrations in

black velvet, worked on cognitive research projects, documented dissections of humans, dissected machines and failed to put most of them back together, freely made up vocabulary as needed, removed my teeth to model information systems, self-induced phobias concerning consciousness in the plant kingdom, donated my body to science and then requested it be returned, observed nerve development in vivo, choreographed synaptic responses, translated EEGs into music, conducted a cartesian exorcism on myself, and attempted to create cognitive models of my own confused state.

Maria Antelman presents a compellingly unusual video called "**taH pagh taHbe**" (2006); still images of a vast, unused NASA hangar soundtracked by Hamlet's famous soliloquy translated into the guttural sci-fi language of Klingon from the TV series **Star Trek**.

Antelman was born in Athens/Greece (1971). She studied Art History in Madrid/Spain. She is the creator and publisher of *ozon* magazine, published in Athens. She has collaborated as an assistant curator at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens. She lives between San Francisco and New York City since September 2001. Maria Antelman creates videos by merging original photographs with found sounds and superimposed texts. Disparate socio-visual sources come together in her videos revealing a fictional aspect of reality: cowboys seeking answers in cryogenetics, bodybuilders straddling between scientific experiments and para-psychological phenomena, revolutionary re-enactors receiving messages from extra-terrestrials and aviators searching for parallel universes. Her interest originates in the motives, fears and desires that underlie different lifestyles.

Wood Street Galleries are located at 601 Wood Street above the T-Station in downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the Galleries are FREE and open to the public Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, call Wood Street Galleries at (412) 471-5605 or visit www.woodstreetgalleries.org.

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