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THE EMILY
HARVEY
FOUNDATION

Sunken City / Episode II by Raphaela Shirley

March 20 - April 5, 2008

Hours: by appointment: 917.805.6320

Opening Reception: Thursday March 20, 6 - 9pm



Raphaela Shirley exposes archetypal representations of space, time and emotion as they exist in our conscious and unconscious mind. Using a rule-based “Psychedelic Documentation,” she systematically studies, copies, interprets and transforms a fixed set of collected shapes (Styrofoam packaging) by means of sculptures, photography, video documentation and paintings. This process has generated a wide array of works, ranging from organic and naïf to highly formal and mechanical. A constant switching of interpretative mediums has caused “crossovers,” where the photographs tend towards sculptures, the videos became photographic, and the sculptures videographic etc. The resulting pieces create a narrative, a fictional archeology of form, a lexicon of shifting dimensions.

In the “Sunken City” series, she combines her practices into a multi-media, abstract landscape of uncertain scale and timeframe. With this new series Shirley

is exploring space, place and structure, loosely implying utopian environments of awe-inspiring proportions. In this she is exploring new perspectives for our collective future, as well as charting the less tangible dynamics between entropy and order, and the fragmentation of perception through time.

Raphaele Shirley lives and works in NYC. Upcoming solo exhibition at the Marc de Puechrdeon Gallery, Basel, Switzerland, and participation in the DARK FAIR at the Swiss Institute March 28 &29. She is currently showing in the group exhibition "Displacements" curated by Elizabeth Grady and Julie McKim. She is a co-founder of Perpetual Art Machine [PAM], an interactive video installation and online web community. [PAM] has been chosen as a featured project for the NY 2008 Scope Art Fair. Among recent exhibitions "Video Art in the Age of the Internet" curated by [PAM] and Nina Colosi at the Chelsea Art Museum, New York, "Video as Urban Condition" curated by Anthony Auerbach at the Museum of Modern Art, Linz, Austria and in Art Basel /Video Lounge curated by Michael Rush 2006. Independently she has shown at the Museum of Photography in Milan, Lincoln Center, the Istanbul art fair, PhotoMiami and at several Scope Art fairs since 2005. Raphaele Shirley was a co-founder of Show World/The Laugh Factory a Multimedia Arts Center and experimental exhibition space on 42nd street and 8th Avenue, a founding member of the New York International Fringe Festival and director of Fringe AI fresco/Outdoor events from 1997-1999. From 1997-2002 she worked with Nam June Paik in the development and exhibition of his laser sculptures.