

THE PROJECT SPACE



Amy Joy Watson Big Rock Candy Mountain

OPENING FRIDAY 27 MAY 6-8PM

Big Rock Candy Mountain is a solo exhibition of new sculptural work by Amy Joy Watson. Borrowing its title from Harry McClintock's 1928 ode to an imagined hobo's paradise, the work examines the human tendency to imagine different and better worlds. The objects and environments that make up *Big Rock Candy Mountain* are singular and eccentric: among these a giant anthropomorphic dancing bow, an origami-like crystal form that seems to defy gravity and a candy coloured clam with a giant gobstopper as its pearl. With its wildly eclectic imagery and influences there is a strong internal logic to the work which is partly due to the rigorous and inventive approach to materials and the making process. Watson's process involves delicate hand-stitching of segments of finely cut, watercolour stained balsa wood. This very delicacy and sensitivity to materials has permitted the recent inclusion of potentially risky elements such as helium, glitter and glow-in-the-dark pigment.

Born in Adelaide in 1987, Amy Joy Watson received a scholarship to study at Adelaide Central School of Art in 2005. Graduating in 2008, she completed a Bachelor of Visual Art with Honours majoring in sculpture and painting. Amy has shown in various solo and group exhibitions in South Australia including a solo exhibition at FELTspace, Adelaide in 2009. She recently undertook a two-month studio residency at Takt Kunstprojektraum, Berlin Germany. Amy was a finalist in the 2009 Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize and won the Core Energy Group Sculpture Award and the SALife Emerging Artist Award for the 2009 SALA Festival. In August 2011, Amy is scheduled to have a solo exhibition at GRANTPIRRIE Gallery 2 in Sydney.

Amy Joy Watson, *Untitled*, 2011, balsa wood, watercolour, polyester thread

EXHIBITION DATES 27 MAY-10 JULY



AHMET ÖĞÜT (Turkey)
Speculative Social Fantasies

ARTSPACE CURATOR MELANIE OLIVER—GALLERY FLOORTALK FRIDAY 27 MAY 5.30PM
 EXHIBITION OPENING FRIDAY 27 MAY 6–8PM

CACSA PROJECTS 4, in the lead up to the 2011 *Venice Biennale*, presents Ahmet Öğüt who co-represented Turkey at the 53rd *Venice Biennale* in 2009. Presented in association with ArtSpace, Sydney, this exhibition *Speculative Social Fantasies* is a selective panorama of Ahmet Öğüt's work that brings together a range of recent experiments in paradox and tragedy.

Ahmet Öğüt is a conceptual artist working across a broad range of media including video, photography, installation, drawing and printed media. With a keenly perceptive and sharp wit, Öğüt examines everyday happenstance, modes of behaviour and informal gestures which bear witness to broader global social and political structures. Through diverse means of expression, from installation and performance to drawing, video and interventions in public space, Öğüt weaves loose narratives that meander between artistic practice and social life to provoke critical consciousness and subtle shifts in perspective.

The notion of a speculative fantasy is itself tragic—as speculation it is pure fantasy, which is to say that of all possible futures, it is the one that won't eventuate; while as fantasy, its speculative character implies that it will never escape the space of the real. Perhaps this paradox, cast back onto realm of the social, defines the limits of possibility of the world in which we live, the very world whose absurd logic and occasional wonders the artist's work so frequently exposes through its subtle perceptual shifts and keenly observed re-framings. It is this charismatically subversive sensibility, at once darkly humorous and profoundly empathetic, that characterises Öğüt's wry artistic propositions for daily life.

Born in Diyarbakir, Turkey in 1981, Öğüt currently resides in Amsterdam. Winner of the Volkskrant Art Prize 2011, Öğüt's recent solo exhibitions include *Stones to Throw*, Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon; *Underestimated Zones*, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis; *Ricochet # 4*, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich; *Speculative Social Fantasies*, ArtSpace Visual Arts Centre, Sydney; *Things we count*, Künstlerhaus Bremen; *Mutual Issues, Inventive Acts*, Kunsthalle Basel; *Across the Slope*, Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona. Selected group exhibitions include *5th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art*, 2008 and the *9th International Istanbul Biennial*, 2005. In 2009 he co-represented Turkey at the 53rd Venice Biennale together with Banu Cennetoğlu.

EXHIBITION DATES 27 MAY–10 JULY, 2011

Image: Ahmet Öğüt, *This area is under 23 hour surveillance*, 2009 Photo courtesy the artist

CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

14 PORTER STREET PARKSIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5063

Tel +61 [08] 82 72 26 82 Fax +61 [08] 83 73 42 86 cacsa@cacsa.org.au www.cacsa.org.au

THE CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE OF SA IS ASSISTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL, ITS ARTS FUNDING AND ADVISORY BODY, AND THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH ARTS SA AND HEALTH PROMOTIONS SA. THE CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE OF SA IS SUPPORTED BY THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY, AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS

