

making space

10 July – 7 August

Can Altay, Turkey

Alex Morrison, Canada

PAC, Switzerland

Oliver Payne and Nick Relph, Britain

Robin Rhode, South Africa

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 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.

Interventions and performance by art collective PAC will physically spill out on to the streets themselves, thereby acknowledging and adding to, the animation of Istanbul's already vibrant street life. The public of Istanbul will be invited to participate in their activities and the resulting documentation will be exhibited in the gallery itself.

Artist Can Altay will present his studies of the mini-bar culture 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's performances and animations comment on the notion of street play in the urban sphere. At Platform he will perform to produce an in-situ wall drawing for the exhibition, which will exist in the context of his previous works shown here on monitor.

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'.

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.

Making Space: Events

8 July, 7pm lecture by Iain Borden

10 July, 1pm Exhibition opens

10 July, 7pm performance by Robin Rhode at 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

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