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DARLENE CHARNECO
TED VICTORIA

May 2 – June 7, 2009

YC3

Collaborative project by
SHEILA ROSS + LAURA TEN EYCK
With
FLETCH, TODD KNOPKE, JOSE KRAPP,
TED MCGURN, GEORGE SCHMIDT, DERRICK WILSON

May 2 – October 18, 2009

Reception for both: Saturday, May 2, 5-7 PM

at

art sites

651 West Main Street (Route 25), Riverhead, New York 11901 T: 631- 591-2401

<http://www.artsitesgallery.com>

Gallery Hours: Thursday –Sunday, 12-5 PM.

For group tour information and additional hours call 631-591-2401

HOME

The idea of *home* usually evokes a sense of nostalgia and family, but both artists look with a fond, humorous and critical eyes at habitation. Darlene Charneco's mapping and gameland series look people, networks, homes and communities as part of a larger organism's growth stage. Clusters of houses sharing or sequestering resources and shorelines are pondered as experiments within imaginary petri dishes. *Self-Assembling Memory Palace* draws together free-floating spatial memories culled from personal experience. She imagines that humanity's overlapping experiences and shared interests can lead to new interactive maps of possibilities, ones that can tackle global challenges. Having studied art at LIU Southampton and SUNY Stonybrook, Charneco continues to live on the South Fork. She has shown and lectured at numerous museums and galleries, including the Katonah, Parrish, Hunterdon and Hecksher Museums. Her works will be featured in *Cartography: Artists + Maps*, 2009 by Katharine A. Harmon.

Ted Victoria's constructions are a constant delight, while tinged with a shadowed image. His moving images are physical, the assemblages of a home-grown inventor, but culled from pieces of the work-a-day world. While using simple actions derived from the camera obscura, the interior of his pieces are 3d mazes of bulbs, wires, lenses, debris and familiar items. The image first conveyed to the audience is often a mysteriously

simple tableau, unexpectedly invigorated by movement and juxtapositions of scale and meaning. Titles such as *The Magic Chair*, or *Watching TV on LSD*, give a sense of the inner, imaginative world that the shell of home encompasses. Ted Victoria is a native son of Riverhead, where he filled the storefronts with images of swimming sea monkeys. As well as being a printmaker and photographer, he taught painting at Kean University for thirty-seven years. He shows with the Shroeder Romero Gallery in New York City and has a large installation, titled "Infestation" opening October 31 at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Connecticut.

YC3

YC3 an acronym for *Yurt City 3*, is the 3rd incarnation of a collaborative outdoor installation project to be installed this summer on the grounds at *art sites*. Co-ordinated by New York based Canadian artists Sheila Ross and Laura Ten Eyck, *YC3*, like earlier *Yurt Cities*, will consist of various prefabricated tents, yurts and handmade structures, in which guest artists will be invited to respond by adding artwork interventions to the structures.

The title and tent city aspect of *YC3* are evocative of "Y2K" and a "back to the land" sensibility. *YC3* also riffs on tent names - Eureka K 2 XT and Marmot Thor 3P3. For this installment of *Yurt City*, Ross and Ten Eyck have invited guest artists, Fletch, Todd Knopke, Jose Krapp, Ted McGurn, George Schmidt and Derrick Wilson to participate. As in previous installations, Ross' colourfully embellished *Yurt* will serve as a meeting ground around which the other structures will be installed. Ten Eyck, in collaboration with guest artist Ted McGurn, is planning on erecting a trailhead that will serve as an appropriate point of entry into *YC3*, which will be dispersed across the 2-acre grounds of *art sites*.

Initially *Yurt City* was conceived in response to New York city's current housing crisis of unaffordable rents and studio spaces. Both *Yurt Cities* were located in neighbourhoods currently undergoing a transformation of rampant development, displacing residents, including the local artist's community. *Yurt City* is a response to this lack of space for artists to make and exhibit their work. *Yurt City* provides a venue for artists to participate, collaborate and foster a sense of community. The venue will serve as an outdoor laboratory for the development of temporary, ad hoc and vernacular architecture and adjunct forms in relationship to personal, practical and utopian notions of community and landscape. *Yurt City* also pays homage to the importance of the guest in Nomadic cultures, as the inclusion and participation of the guest artist is integral to the concept of this project.

Part camping experience, part tent city response to the urban housing issues, and part homage to Nomadic yurt dwellers of Central Asia, *YC3* uses the architectural elements to reflect on different experiences of structure in the urban landscape. While indebted to the spirit of tent cities, or the shantytown phenomenon called Gecekondu, Turkish for "built in one night," the structures of *YC3*, their modifications and additions will be built sturdily enough to remain for the several month duration of an exhibition. In keeping with the ad hoc spirit of the nomadic, temporary tent city or Gecekondu, *YC3* will be transformative for viewers and guest artists alike.