

BUTLER ■ GALLERY

David Phillips and Paul Rowley

Gravity Loop

March 10th – April 22nd, 2007

The Butler Gallery is delighted to host *Gravity Loop* by Memphis born David Phillips and Dublin born Paul Rowley who have been working together since 1998 in film, video and sound. This is their first major exhibition in Ireland since their Glen Dimplex Artist Award at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 2000. Recently, Paul was the first recipient of the newly established Irish American Arts Award and won both the under 35 category and the overall prize.

Their work takes us on incredible visual journeys of beauty and technical precision. Four singular new works that demonstrate a continued interest in the convergence of science and art will be presented. These works examine and contrast the visual vocabularies of distinct disciplines—the visual language of science, as it relates to contemporary art, cinema history, visual culture, educational films and art history.

GRAVITY LOOP reconfigures a single image, in this case a bright blue cuckoo clock, in order to present multiple approaches to viewing time. Immediately captivating and visually stunning, the viewer is drawn into a multiplicity of images and repetitive sound. The work considers recent movements in Theoretical Physics, which discuss the possibilities of time as a non-continuous dimension—that is, that at the quantum level, there may be gaps in time. The audio score, by American pianist Emily Manzo, accompanies the work to huge effect.

SLEEP NO MORE takes the built-in encoding of the standard DVD player and reprogrammes it in order to create a self-generating work. The encoding causes the DVD player to select pairings of images and sounds according to rules based on patterns found in gene reproduction. The images, a collection of animated drawings, are then presented in infinite sequences, much like the DNA sequences at the centre of our own genetic coding. Each time the two DVD players are set in motion, the programming generates a unique and infinite sequence of pairings, in a sense, creates a new work.

SOME AMERICANS was generated by using low voltage oscillators to create wave forms, patterns of light drifting across the screen. The video footage was recorded live while listening to the album 'Some Americans', four improvisations for electric and acoustic guitar which mutate ideas of Americana or Folk into a lament for the dead. The work is a study of interference and removal, physical and cultural. The influence of sound on picture and our impulse to match image to sound, to write our own films and soundtracks, to fill in gaps, is demonstrated in this installation. The five discreet audio channels form a soundtrack that changes as a person walks around the gallery, experiencing in real time the dropping in and out of sound waves caused by the disturbance their own physical presence causes in the space.

COMMONWEALTH examines ideas of social progress through re-visiting the Soviet Space program of the 1960's, in particular Yuri Gagarin's orbit of the earth in 1961. The importance of the Soviet space program is examined in relation to the role of the individual figurehead, selected from the masses to represent the society internationally. A rich collection of visual references are brought together in building the piece: Ambrogio Lorenzetti's *Allegories of Good Government: The Effects of Good Government in the City and Country*, Soviet mosaic murals, the iconography of the space race, the visual language of progress, and the utopian architectures and designs of the World Fairs of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

David Phillips was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1970 and received his BA from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia in 1993 and attended Temple/Tyler School of Art in Rome, Italy in 1992. **Paul Rowley** was born in Dublin in 1971 and received his BA from Trinity College in 1994 and studied Film and Photography at the College of Marin/San Francisco City College from 1995-97. They live and work in New York City and Dublin. They are the recipients of numerous grants and awards and have exhibited their work widely in galleries, museums and festival screenings nationally and internationally. Paul is currently finishing a feature length documentary shot in the former Butlin's holiday camp at Mosney, which is now used as a holding center for asylum seekers. They are also currently working on a new multi-screen video work for LAX airport in Los Angeles. (A full biography and bibliography is available upon request or please visit their website at www.condensate.net)

ADMISSION FREE

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