

# WORKS|PROJECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Crystal Palace (Destroyed)

Sovay Berriman, Melanie Counsell, Heather & Ivan Morison, Mike Ricketts, Roy Voss

3 July – 7 August 2010

A crystal palace. A fortress of solitude. A mythical place of majesty and retreat. Destroyed.

A (science) fiction of sorts, of sculpture and images, of a broken utopia refracted through fragments – autonomous artifacts that together weave a suggested archeology. Of the shards of thought made into solid form. Into a form that is lost.

Works by the featured artists appear to transpose the architectural remains of this mythic place into a physical relationship with the gallery – a complex angular platform that is parasitically grafted to the gallery walls (Berriman), a jewel-like architectural addition that change the light from the skylights (Counsell) – or suggest an arcane practice of planning the building of cities through the use of crystals (Ricketts).

Photographs by Heather & Ivan Morison and Roy Voss provide clues to the setting of The Crystal Palace or to its wanderings. Their photographs suggest that the palace resides in many places, or exerts its influence there at least. Crystalline forms overlay themselves on lonely landscapes and natural forms. Deserted icebound vistas are tattooed with white signs that declare a calamity no longer visible. Fell they say. Fell. Fell.

The collapsing of the palace into shards. The broken remnants gathered for inspection. A road sign declaring the word Amethyst lies prone, ripped from the ground. A tangled line sprayed onto the wall a final act of desecration. Or perhaps a salutation we do not understand.

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## About the Artists

### **Sovay Berriman**

Sovay Berriman was born in Penzance in 1972, graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2003 and lives and works in Bristol, UK. Berriman has realised several significant exhibitions and curatorial projects within the UK, including a recent major show *Entertaining at The Dust Lounge*, Phoenix, Exeter and *Control Point: A Temporary Facility*, Plymouth Arts Centre (both 2010). Berriman is a recent recipient of the ICA A-Frame mentoring programme with leading art writer Maria Fusco.

### **Melanie Counsell**

Melanie Counsell was born in Cardiff in 1964 and graduated from Slade School of Fine Art in 1988. She lives and works in London. Major solo exhibitions in the UK and Europe to date include Program, London, Galerie Jennifer Flay, Paris and Matt's Gallery, London. In 2007 Melanie Counsell was awarded the Sargant Fellowship at the British School at Rome, and has undertaken major residencies at FRAC Corsica (2008) and Cove Park, Scotland (2009). Her bookwork Annette was published by Artangel, London and Matt's Gallery, London (ISBN 0-907623-29-8). Counsell has works in private collections in UK, France and Germany and works in the collections of Fonds National d'Art Contemporain and Frac Pays de la Loire, France.

### **Heather & Ivan Morison**

Heather Peak was born in Desborough, UK in 1973; Ivan Morison was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1974. They currently live and work in Wales. The couple have delivered major commissioned works and public artworks across the UK. Major works to date include *The Black Line*, Void, Derry, Northern Ireland, *The Shape of Things to Come*, Bristol, UK, *In Space and Time*, Folkestone Sculpture Triennale, and *And so it goes*, representing Wales at the 52nd Venice Biennale 2007. They have also staged numerous solo exhibitions in the UK and internationally. Their publication *Falling Into Place*, was published by Bookworks, London and Situations, Bristol in 2010, ISBN 978-1-906012-09-0. They have works in private collections in UK, Europe, Japan and the USA and in the collections of Tate and other UK museums.

### **Mike Ricketts**

Mike Ricketts was born in Sheffield in 1971 and was educated at Chelsea College of Art and Design and Courtauld Institute of Art, London. He lives and works in Somerset and London. Recent exhibitions include *Zero Budget Biennial*, Rokeby, London, *Subject | Matter*, Cass Sculpture, Goodwood, Sussex, *Ouagadougou Rendez-vous*, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, *Reverse Consultation (Old New Town)*, *Art and the New Town*, Harlow, Essex (solo), *Building, Dwelling, Thinking*, Laura Bartlett Gallery, London. Mike Ricketts has contributed critical writing and artist's projects to various journals including Photoworks, Inventory, and Camera Austria. He is a Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art at Christie's Education London, and is working on doctoral research at Chelsea College of Art and Design.

### **Roy Voss**

Roy Voss was educated at Goldsmiths College and lives and works in London and Bristol. Selected recent exhibitions include *Kate Davis & Roy Voss*, The Russian Club Gallery, *Rotate*, Contemporary Art Society offices, London, *Pine*, Matts Gallery, London, *Skit*, Roy Voss and David Cheeseman, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, *Farmer's Market*, Handel Street Projects, London. Roy Voss has work in private collections UK & Germany, and corporate collections such as the Penguin Books Collection.

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## Notes to editors

Preview: 2 July 6 ~ 8pm 2010

Exhibition open:

3 July – 7 August  
Thursday ~ Saturday  
12 ~ 6pm

or by appointment

## Special Events:

The curator Simon Morrissey will discuss the exhibition with artists Sovay Berriman and Mike Ricketts. Talk in collaboration with Spike Island Associates: Thursday 29th July. 6pm

## About WORKS|PROJECTS

WORKS|PROJECTS is the new gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey. WORKS|PROJECTS will work with a small stable of distinctive British artists and is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbour side, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. The gallery is located on the same block as both Spike Island and Picture This and is only 10 minutes walk from Arnolfini.

WORKS|PROJECTS receives support from Spike Island.

## Spike Island

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