

CHRISTOPHER McCORMACK

## SAN FRANCISCO: CCA WATTIS INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

HOW TO BUILD A UNIVERSE THAT DOESN'T FALL  
APART TWO DAYS LATER

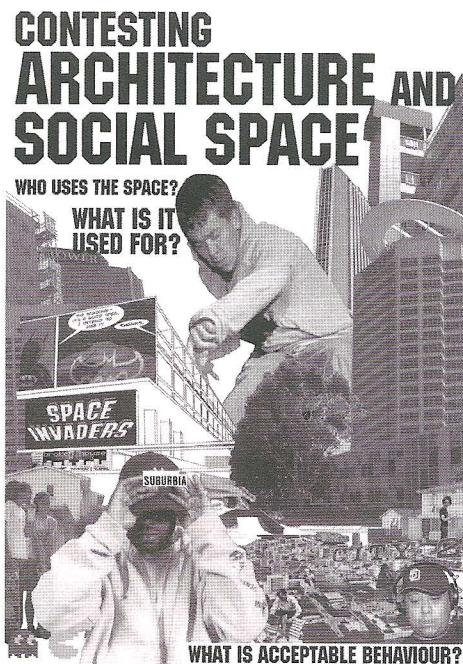
28 November – 24 February

This exhibition is the first that Jens Hoffman will preside over after his recent appointment as director at the Wattis, fresh from his tenure at the ICA London. With the Wattis's former director Ralph Rugoff shifting over to the Hayward Gallery in London this autumn, this brings the cross Atlantic swap to a neat conclusion. Hippy idealism and scientific daydreams are to be presented alongside artists who work within public environments and who 'present alternative scenarios, explore the ways in which our physical reality is defined, and critique the ideological narratives that attend its construction'.

One such starting point is the 1974–1980 Crossroads Community (The Farm), chiefly organised by Bonnie Sherk. By situating this commune under a large freeway in the centre of San Francisco, Sherk intended to create 'a space where different kinds of artists and also non-artists could come together and break down some of the mythologies and prejudices between genres, styles, and cultural forms. All this had to be connected with other species – plants and animals'. But for all this holistic funkiness, Sherk's maverick attitude belies the seriousness of her intent and labour in overseeing the project over

six years. In the same decade but in contrast to this, Gerard K. O'Neill was working on providing homes outside of our earthly domain, damning governments worldwide for slowing down possibilities for 'the free expansion of mankind into space'. His book *The High Frontier* (1977) is still in print, but on show here will be Rick Guidice's luminary paintings of O'Neill's plans. Alongside the illustrations of world endings and beginnings is also the work of Katya Sander, Gitte Villeson, Nate Boyce, Shaun O'Dell, Eva Rothschild, Eileen Quinlan, Can Altay, William Scott, Solmaz Shahbazi and Toby Peterson.

[www.wattis.org](http://www.wattis.org)  
+1 415 551 9210



Jakob Kolding, *Untitled (Auckland)*, 2004. Courtesy: Team Gallery, New York