

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

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Kit Wise: Arcadia

January 9 – April 8, 2012

Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, February 12, 3-5 pm

The Jackman Goldwasser Catwalk Gallery

Gallery Hours: Daily from 3 pm – 10pm



Kit Wise, *Arcadia*, 2011, video still, assisted by Darin Bendall

Chicago, IL (November 2011) — In his American debut, international artist, Kit Wise contradicts the notion of the Midwest experience being an Arcadian one in the high definition digital work made specifically for the Jackman Goldwasser Catwalk Gallery at the Hyde Park Art Center from January 9 through April 8, 2012. The new digital work, *Arcadia* addresses global ecological concerns through an invented and always-changing landscape that slowly twists and turns beyond human control.

For the past several years, Kit Wise has been creating large digital collages that often address urban sprawl and the visible pulse of a city. In this new piece, the pulse has returned to nature as the man-made environment gets subsumed by water and earth. Using aerial news footage of the devastation in Texas and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina (2005), as well as the floods in Missouri and Mississippi (2008), this latest animation by Wise presents a complex interaction of urban forms, nature, and landscape. According to Wise, “the work explores ideas of utopia and arcadia in relation to the contemporary city.” Through the work, the artist aims to focus on the tumultuous relationship between water and the metropolis in the light of the recent natural disasters in the Midwest region of the United States, which parallel similar catastrophes in the Asia Pacific region.

Kit Wise is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty Art & Design, Monash University in Australia, where he has lived since 2002. His work has been the subject of many solo exhibitions in Australia and Italy and has been included in group exhibitions in Australia, Taiwan, Korea, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland. His art writing includes reviews, book chapters and catalogue essays and has been published in international art journals such as *Frieze*, *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* and *unMagazine*. Wise earned a BFA from Oxford University and an MFA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art (UK). He is currently represented by Sarah Scout, Melbourne.

The artwork *Arcadia* is generously supported by Arts Victoria and the Besen Family Foundation.

Kit Wise: Arcadia will be on view from January 9 until April 8, 2012, at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60615; 773.324.5520 and www.hydeparkart.org. Exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

The Hyde Park Art Center is at once an exhibition space for contemporary art, learning annex, community resource, and social hub for the art curious and professional artists alike -- carrying out its mission to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; David C. and Sarajeun Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; National Endowment for the Arts; Polk Bros. Foundation; and the generosity of its members and people like you.