

November 8, 2009- January 24, 2010

**Related Events:**

**Art Thing**

December 1, 2009, 6pm

Chuck Thurow, Executive Director and co-curator of *Close Encounters*, explains the fascinating background of the *Close Encounters* project. He reveals its serendipitous beginnings and shares the advantages and challenges of curating an experimental project with artists and communities.

**Artist Talk**

December 17, 6pm

Chicago based artist Juan Angel Chávez shares how a three week research visit to New Zealand inspired his impressive installation.

**CARGO Yard Sale**

January 24, 2010, 3-5pm

Everything must go! Come and complete Daniel du Bern's floor installation by attending his yard sale. All reasonable offers considered. Proceeds go towards future installments of the CARGO project.

The Hyde Park Art Center acknowledges the generous support of:



Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

closeencounters

Curated by Chuck Thurow and Bruce E. Phillips

**Daniel du Bern  
Tania Bruguera  
Juan Angel Chavez  
Walter Hood  
Truman Lowe  
Wayne Youle**



Juan Angel Chávez  
*bogart, 2009*  
Plywood and fabric  
Image courtesy of the artist



Wayne Youle  
*Funny Money, 2009*  
 Acrylic ink on banknote  
 Private collection, Auckland, New Zealand  
 Image courtesy of the artist.

*Close Encounters* is an experimental curatorial project initiated by the Hyde Park Art Center and in collaboration with a number of other major cultural institutions in Chicago. It provided nine leading New Zealand and U.S. artists with a series of shared experiences related to the nature of community in a variety of Chicago settings in May 2008. The most important of these experiences included a traditional Maori gathering, called a hui, facilitated by Maori elders in the Field Museum's Maori meeting house Ruatēpupuke II and a Powwow conducted by tribal leaders at the American Indian Center. In addition, the group visited twelve other communities around the city.

The artists were then asked to create new works generated by this experience for the Hyde Park Art Center. Five of the resulting commissions are currently on exhibit at the Center. They are works by Daniel du Bern (N.Z.), Tania Bruguera (U.S.), Juan Angel Chávez (U.S.), Walter Hood (U.S.), Truman Lowe (U.S.), and Wayne Youle (N.Z.). Another series of commissions will be presented at the Center in November 2010 by Maddie Leach (N.Z.), Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle (U.S.), and Lisa Reihana (NZ).

The current set of commissions is striking for the rich variety of the artists' responses. Tania Bruguera's performance interrupts the exhibition opening to simulate how bureaucratic order interferes with societal belonging. In Gallery 1 Juan Angel Chávez and Truman Lowe reference natural elements – smoke in the case of one and water the other – as either a shared passage or a common understanding that can unite disparate people through experience. Also in Gallery 1 Wayne Youle and Walter Hood investigate the complex concerns of multi-cultural societies. Youle specifically assesses U.S. iconography and his own random experiences in Chicago from the perspective of an outsider. Hood deals with the freedom of appropriation versus the politically correct desire for respectful use of sacred traditions. Located throughout the second floor, Daniel du Bern, in collaboration with some forty of his peers, have created an installation that bases itself upon the notion that it is impossible to stand outside of oneself, and one's surroundings, when considering what is community. Works in the exhibition range from performative and accumulative pieces through to large sculptural interventions and digital media.

Bruce E. Phillips  
 Curator of *Close Encounters*



Daniel du Bern  
*CARGO, 2009*  
 Mixed media installation  
 Image courtesy of the artist