

RAPID / TRANSIT

Jessica Segall
May Tveit
Tuguldur Yondonjamts

July 27th - 31st 2012
Opening reception July 27th 7 - 9 pm
Mongolian National Modern Art
Gallery



RAPID / TRANSIT is an exhibition that brings together three artists from New York City, Kansas City and Ulaanbaatar who share interest and conversation about nomadic culture. All three artists traveled together in Bulgan Aimag to create new work for the exhibition. Common themes include a nomadic approach to space and the shift into globalization.

Jessica Segall's work investigates the link between creativity and survival – focusing on the production of energy in practical and alchemical forms. She has had a long - standing interest in Mongolia as the last refuge of pastoral nomadism, preserving cultural heritage from centuries past, such as mastery of transitory shelter and survival in extreme conditions. In this exhibition Jessica will present two videos and a sculptural installation. “*Twin Horsepower*” is a video mash-up of lights powered by car engines in the countryside, both found and assembled. “*Unintentional Mongolian Blue Screens*” is a video re-purposing found “blue screens” in public space as a representation of speculation on Mongolia's future. The blue screen is a common technique used in cinema and television, in which actors are filmed in front of blue background. The color blue is then removed in post production, leaving the actors in an empty, transient setting which can then be replaced as desired - a technique often employed in science fiction or fantasy, or when a desired shot is impossible. The same color blue also has special significance in Mongolian culture, as a representation of the open sky, used in ceremonial cloths and as a common architectural color.

Tuguldur Yondonjamts is working on a series of pen and ink drawings based on how the nomadic population defines and maps space. He researches his work through dialogue in Bulgan Aimag regarding which terrain presents danger and comfortable spaces to navigate. Other drawings are made from natural materials found in the region, including polluted waters from the gold mines. In this exhibition will be Tuguldur's handmade Almas (Yeti) costume. Part space suit, part baby jumper, the Yeti suit is intened as a passage into the region's wildness.

Tuguldur and Jessica worked collallaboratively towards a sculptural installation at the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery including drawings of solar panels used by nomads to produce energy in the countryside.

May Tveit is continuing an ongoing series of site-responsive artworks called *Product Placement* that insert objects and balloons silkscreened in English and handwritten with Mongolian text into urban and natural landscape settings. Here in Mongolia she is interested in the intersections between nomadic and consumer culture. “I see the balloons as ethereal products and emotional ideals and the fake Louis Vuitton luggage and handbags (purchased at the black market in Ulaanbaatar) as literal and metaphorical carriers of meaning.” The interaction of objects, words, location, people and animals in diverse locations provoke multiple meanings and interpretations of the work asking the question “what is lost and gained in the wake of progress?” Here in the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery May will present video and photographic documentation of her interventions and an installation of Louis Vuitton bags, yak ropes and balloons.

Bios

Jessica Segall is an American artist and musician living in New York City. Her work has been exhibited at the International Symposium for Electronic Art, The Havana Bienal, The National Gallery of Indonesia, The Queens Museum of Art and the The Aldrich Museum. Jessica is the recipient of the I.i.a.e.p. Travel Grant, The Gatsby Charitable Foundation Fund, an Emerging Artist Fellowship from Socrates Sculpture Park and a Jerome Fellowship at Franconia Sculpture Park. She has attended artist residencies at Skowhegan, The Sculpture Center, The Arctic

Circle and Künstledorf Schöppingen. Jessica is a graduate of Bard College and received her MFA from Columbia University. Her work here is made possible by a grant from Art Matters and The Foundation for Contemporary Art. www.jessicasegall.com

May Tveit is an American artist whose site-specific art and public art has received national critical reviews in Art in America, Art Papers, National Public Radio, The Kansas City Star, and Review Magazine. She has received numerous honors and awards including a Charlotte Street Foundation Fellowship, American Institute of Architects Allied Arts & Craftsmanship Award, ArtsKC Inspiration Grant, University of Kansas Research Awards & Grants, Hall Center for the Humanities Creative Work Fellowship, Andy Warhol Foundation Rocket Grant and was selected to participate in the Art OMI International Artist Residency. Her work is represented in the corporate collections of Hallmark International, Fishnet Security, National Center for Drug Free Sport, Andrews McMeel Publishing and private collections. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, studied in Rome with the RISD European Honors Program, and received her Masters Degree from the Domus Academy in Milan, Italy. She has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, Kansas City Art Institute and currently teaches in Industrial Design at the University of Kansas and lives and works in the Kansas City, Missouri, USA. www.maytveit.com

Tuguldur Yondonjamts was born in Mongolia in 1977 and lives and works in Ulaanbaatar. He received a Bachelor of Mongolian Painting (Thanka Painting) and Culture from the Mongolian University of Arts in 1997 and received a degree in fine arts from the University of the Arts Berlin in 2004. His works have been exhibited internationally including the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery in Mongolia, Haus der Kunst in Munich, the Cologne Art Fair 21 and The Mongolian Embassy in Berlin, Germany, The Museum of Modern Art / Hofstallungen in Vienna and Arsenale in Venice. He is the recipient of awards and including the Karin-Abt-Straubinger Foundation Fellowship and a residency at ART OMI in 2010. Tuguldur was a visiting artist in the residence program at the Cité International des Arts in Paris. Collections include the Francis J. Greenburger Collection. www.tugulduryondonjamts.com

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IMAGES

Jessica Segall, production still, "Unintentional Mongolian Bluescreens," 2012
Tuguldur Yondonjamts, Yeti costume, 2005, Performance at Bogd Khan Uul/Mountain in Mongolia 2012
May Tveit, *Life Vita* 2011 Venice, Italy