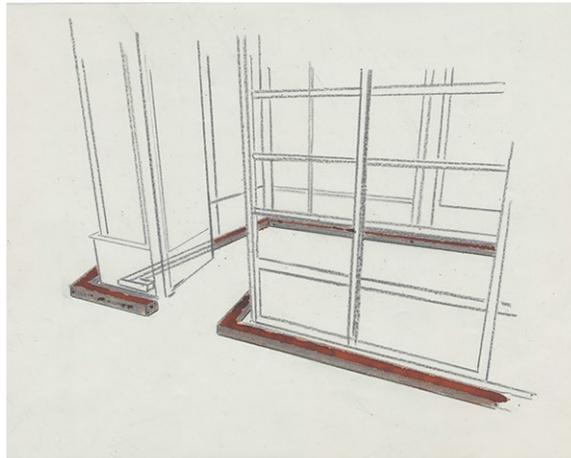


MAK CENTER FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE AT THE SCHINDLER HOUSE AND HIGH DESERT TEST SITES PRESENT



***A Vast Furniture* Installation by Carmen Argote**

Part one

Installation at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture
at the Schindler House
West Hollywood, CA

April 17-May 17, 2015 - Opening reception: April 17, 2015, 7:00 pm

Part two

Installation at High Desert Test Sites
Iron Age Road Parcel
Wonder Valley, CA

May 23-June 20, 2015 - Opening reception: May 23, 2015, 6:00 pm

With one sculpture and two sites, Los Angeles-based artist Carmen Argote uses the floor plan of the Schindler House as an inspiration and guide to literalize the understanding of architectural space as delineated and distinguished from non-architected space.

Part one features a 1:1 sculptural tracing of the footprint of the house's indoor and outdoor rooms. Argote materializes the simple line-drawing action that gave shape to the house's determining features back in 1921, when fresh memories of time in Yosemite National Park led the architect to produce what he conceived of as a permanent campsite. In the waning days of pastureland surrounding Kings Road, the Schindlers staked claim to both a plot and a lifestyle, with every gesture after the floor plan further rooting their bohemian ideals to a 100 by 200 foot lot as the city grew around them.

Public programming during Part one refers to these early decisions by the Schindlers, and will explore the relationship between camping and setting up home, review the construction of one landscape that followed the loss of a first, and situate the house alongside other radical attempts at homeownership in Southern California. Part one opens on April 17 at the Schindler House with a reception from 7:00-9:00 pm.

For **Part two**, Argote's sculpture will be separated from its defining walls and precisely reconstructed in an open landscape in the Mojave Desert. Here, Argote theoretically realizes an off-the-cuff proposal made by Schindler protégé Gregory Ain at an early Schindler House preservation meeting: considering the monumental costs of restoration and accounting for how West Hollywood had so radically changed since construction, Ain suggested to put the Kings Road property on the market, let it meet its inevitable fate, and use the profits to rebuild the house exactly to original specifications elsewhere, as an architecture study center: "Why don't you do what Schindler did, just go out in the desert and build one? It doesn't belong on a tree-lined, apartment-house neighborhood. It was built to be in the desert."*

Installed in collaboration with Joshua Tree-based High Desert Test Sites, the traced line-as-object will carry the influence and sociocultural imprint of the house. Within the outlined perimeter of vast horizons, the architecture of both spaces will be simultaneously activated. Visitors will be able to take up residence in the ghost image of the Schindler House as the sculpture will function both to define a campsite and host conversation around home ownership, cycles of prospecting throughout the region's history, and the meaning of the outskirts to a city like Los Angeles.

The desert portion of the project will be accompanied by on-site programming linking Kings Road to Wonder Valley through the shared legacy of new beginnings manifesting as real estate inherent to Southern California. Part two opens on May 23 at the Iron Age Road Parcel in Wonder Valley with an overnight campout and potluck beginning at 6:00 pm, and a guided tour at 7:00 pm.

*Bernard Judge as quoted in Anthony Denzer's *Gregory Ain: The Modern Home as Social Commentary* (Rizzoli, 2008).

Programming at the Schindler House in West Hollywood

Friday, April 17, 2015

Opening reception, 7:00-9:00 pm.

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Nature walk, 1:00-2:30 pm.

A guided tour of the Kings Road gardens and landscaping, led by the artist and MAK Center staff.

Your Guide to Living in the West, 6:00-9:00 pm

Group reading and sharing of advice, tips, and instructions for relocation and reconnection with the landscape, exploring the shift from camping to permanent residence.

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Lecture by artist Kim Stringfellow and closing reception, 2:00 pm.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Programming at High Desert Test Sites in Wonder Valley

Saturday-Sunday, May 23-24, 2015

Opening reception, potluck, and overnight campout at the Iron Age Road Parcel, beginning at 6:00 pm (visitors may arrive at their convenience, but it is suggested to arrive at the site before sundown), with a guided tour at 7:00 pm.

Sleep under the stars in the "Schindler House," transposed to a remote destination in the Mojave Desert community of Wonder Valley.

Saturday, June 20, 2015

A conversation about the concept of transposing the frontier, time TBD.

Looking at both proximity and distance from the center of development within the sprawling Los Angeles landscape at various points in time, the program will begin with the West Hollywood of the 1920s, and follow a horizontal line eastward to El Monte of the 1950s and Wonder Valley of the 2000s. These three locations are brought together as places where radical ideas were afforded space to flourish, and as destinations for those seeking to be far enough away yet still close to the city of Los Angeles.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Carmen Argote (b. 1981 in Guadalajara) is a Los Angeles-based artist focusing on the exploration of personal history through architecture and the spaces that she inhabits. Her work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Human Resources in Los Angeles (2014) and at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College (2013), and in recent group exhibitions at Commonwealth & Council in Los Angeles and MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana in San Jose. In 2016, she'll complete an MTA commission for the future Metro Expo Line station at 17th and Colorado in Santa Monica. Argote received her MFA from UCLA in 2007, and was an artist-in-residence at Skowhegan in 2009.

A Vast Furniture is organized by Anthony Carfello, Adam Peña, and Aurora Tang.

The MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House is a contemporary, experimental, multi-disciplinary center for art and architecture headquartered in architect Rudolph M. Schindler's House and Studio (1922) at 835 North Kings Road in West Hollywood. Open hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Admission is free for Friends of the MAK Center. Regular admission is \$7, or \$6 for students and seniors. Admission is free on Fridays, 4:00-6:00 pm. Parking is available in the public structure at the northeast corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard. For further information, visit **MAKCenter.org** or call (323) 651-1510.

High Desert Test Sites is a non-profit organization that supports immersive experiences and exchanges between artists, critical thinkers, and general audiences -- challenging all to expand their definition of art to take on new areas of relevancy. Visit **highdeserttestsites.com** or contact **info@highdeserttestsites.com** for more information.

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