BEALL CENTER FOR ART+TECHNOLOGY
University of California, Irvine

Press Packet

For immediate release

EXHIBITION: Constant World: The Work of Jennifer and Kevin McCoy
Curated by David Familian

LOCATION: The Beall Center for Art and Technology

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday**,** October 2nd, 2008, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

ADDRESS:
University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
712 Arts Plaza
Irvine, CA 92697-2775

HOURS:
Tuesday - Wednesday, 12 – 5 pm
Thursday - Saturday, 12 – 8 pm
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BRIEF OVERVIEW
The Beall Center for Art and Technology at the University of California Irvine brings cutting edge exhibitions that use the latest experimental artistic and scientific digital, audio, and visual technology. Continuing with their mission the Beall Center will present "Constant World: The Work of Jennifer and Kevin McCoy" curated by David Familian. Known for their intricate and intimate dioramas featuring small spy cameras that project scenes onto walls, monitors, or screens, the McCoys explore a wide range of topics, from the personal to the political. The exhibition demonstrates their continuing interest in sculpture, cinema and technology, and features the U.S. premiere of *Constant World*, a major work commissioned by the British Film Institute, as well as a survey of recent works.

CURATOR STATEMENT
The second in the Beall Center's exhibition series of "Foundations in the New Media Arts" features works by Kevin and Jennifer McCoy. "Constant World: The Work of Jennifer and Kevin McCoy" includes the artists' production from the past three years that continues their interest in sculpture, cinema and technology. Inspired by a variety of films and television shows, the McCoys make playful multimedia works that tap into a collective pop-culture nostalgia. Widely exhibited in Europe, the Beall exhibition will be the McCoy's first solo exhibit in Southern California. The exhibit features the North American premiere of "Constant World," commissioned in 2007 by the British Film Institute, as well as several earlier works.

The McCoys are known for their platform sculptures tabletop-scale movie sets of tiny figures and buildings and trees surrounded by miniature video cameras. The resulting films are projected onto the walls and accompanied by soundtracks to create a "Gulliverian" journey of scale, time, and narrative.

The McCoys have been creating new media work since the early nineties when they each obtained their MFA in Electronic Arts from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Their backgrounds in philosophy and film studies, as well as their distinctive relationship as partners in work and life, merge to create engaging, thought-provoking art.

The exhibition is on view at the Beall Center for the Art + Technology from October 6 2008-December 12 2008. The exhibit is available for travel beginning January 2009.

LIST OF WORKS
Constant World (2007) a major commission from the British Film Institute, is a large scale installation takes the utopian architectural plan, New Babylon, by Constant Niewenhuis and turns it into a miniature Alphaville-like film set, using 36 sets and cameras that edit in real-time to a large wall-mounted plasma screen.

Big Box (2008) two scultpural models of an American-style big box shopping mall are placed it on a slowly rotatings turntable. The clean, nearly featureless buildings facades have been modified to alternate between a trash-filled waste-land, and an over-grown jungle. A single camera films the scene, presenting it as a drive-by view on a wall mounted monitor.

Double Fantasy 1 - 4 (2005-06) is based on the McCoys' imagination of their past and future: Double Fantasy 1 imagines the McCoys as childhood friends; Double Fantasy 2 recreates early

sexual fantasies from each of the artists of what they imaged sex to be; Double Fantasy 3 revisits their childhood images of their adult jobs and professional lives and Double Fantasy 4 derives from memories of childhood experiences with religion and images of the Absolute. Each of these four fantasies are projected onto the wall.

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

Jennifer and Kevin McCoy are a Brooklyn, New York-based married couple who make art together. They work with interactive media, film, performance and installation to explore personal experience in relation with new technology, the mass media, and global commerce. They often re-examine classic genres and works of cinema, science fiction or television narrative, creating sculptural objects, net art, robotic movies or live performance.

The McCoys met in Paris in 1990. They subsequently studied together at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York where they both received their MFA in Electronic Art, studying in part under Pauline Oliveros.

In 1999, Jennifer and Kevin McCoy undertook the "World Views" residency program on the World Trade Center's 91st floor. From this residency, the artists developed a series of interventions into global capitalism. For example, the McCoys created web-based banner ads satirizing corporate aesthetics and jargon. The artists then used the Doubleclick.com network to distribute 1 million of these banner ads over one month, from mid-August to mid-September 1999. Doubleclick.com, which sponsored the project, did not inform sites on which the ads were displayed that they were playing host to an artistic intervention.

Recently, the McCoys have been creating works that use miniature dioramas similar to model railroads or dolls' houses. Live video cameras are embedded in each diorama, capturing the miniature figures and landscapes from various angles. The resulting video feeds are then sequenced by special computer software which acts as the film editor, creating a real-time animated film sequence to be projected on the gallery wall.

Articles about their work have appeared in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *The Wire*, *dArt International*, *Spin Magazine*, *Feed*, and *The Independent*. They won a *Wired Magazine* Rave Award, in the Art Category for 2005. Their work is held in museum collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, and Mudam. A number of individual collectors also own their work, including actor Bill Paxton.

[Artists' biography from Wikipedia]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IMAGES, AND RESOURCES

http://mccoyspace.com
http://www.postmastersart.com
http://www.artfacts.net/index.php/pageType/artistInfo/artist/13538/lang/1

Tours by Beall Interns are available free of charge during business hours
Private group tours available by appointment: contact Randyll Wendl at rwendl@uci.edu.