Detourism

November 11–December 23, 2001

Opening reception: Sunday, November 11, 2001, 4:00–7:00pm
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Siemon Allen
South Africa

Siegrun Appelt
Vienna

Rebecca Baron
Los Angeles

Johanna Bresnicky
New Haven

Edward Burtynsky
Toronto

Jeff Carter
Chicago

Susan Giles
Chicago

Alnoor Dewshi
London

Rainer Ganahl
New York

Michelle Keim
Chicago

Suchan Kinoshita
Amsterdam

Miranda Lichtenstein
New York

Corey McCorkle
New York

David Servoss
New York

Chris Williams
Los Angeles

Expect the World™

But morning delivery is one thing. Trying to drink a cup of coffee over images of cataclysmic terror is another. Clearly, whatever expectations were implicit in the New York Times’ advertising slogan have been superseded by recent world events. According to most headlines, it seems the world is all too rapidly coming together or falling apart. But the world isn’t actually in the newspapers you read. It is all the clothes you wear, the food you eat, the movies you see, and more than likely, the company you keep. Everything is everywhere. And by the same token, everywhere is in everything. Distinct geographic points are not only linked via satellite transmission, they are also linked materially and culturally through the flow of labor, commodities, refugees and tourists. Under these circumstances, allegories of globalization can come from almost anywhere. This makes for a very interiors geopolitical and geographical imagination. Between journalistic reportage, a nostalgia for the exotic, a discourse of authenticity, and the circular discourse of travel ads, artists have had to perform complex negotiations when trying to represent place.

Detourism features the work of thirteen artists who call attention to how place is mediated through travel, translation, memory, material culture and photographic conventions. Almost all of the work in Detourism is linked by the simple question, how is it possible to understand “there” from “here” particularly when, as Gertrude Stein put it, “there is no there there.”

Detourism has been made possible through generous support from the CityArts Program of The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, a municipal agency; the Dorothy and Gaylord Donnelley Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The LLWW Foundation; The Peter Norton Family Foundation; The Pritzker Foundation; The Sara Lee Foundation; The Lawrence I. Schulman and Christine Poggianti Philanthropic Fund; The Siragusa Foundation; and our membership. Indirect support has been received from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency offering general operating support to the nation’s museums.