



de | constructing home
Heather Benning and Brent Green

Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College
22 January – 27 February, 2016

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Through the work of Heather Benning and Brent Green, *de | constructing home* presents a conversation about the physical structure of a house and what that might say about the idea of home. Though they deal with familiar space, there is something extra-ordinary about the work of both of these artists, something that taps into the psychological space that we enter when we enter a place we call home. Benning and Green handle this psychological space in different ways, but both might be said to be looking for a kind of healing or catharsis, and both turn homeward in order to find it (or to construct it). The house is overbuilt and destroyed, susceptible to the elements and time, sometimes out of reach or accessible only in memory, but the home remains a potent symbol and depository of feeling.

This exhibition and the events around it are the culmination of a season-long focus on the relationship between art and place. Alongside this exhibition is a resource room organized by the Mellon Student Fellows in anticipation of *Memphis: Art in Place*, a conference presented by the Memphis Center at Rhodes College which takes place at locations throughout Memphis on February 18 and 19. Materials will continue to accumulate in this space as conversations develop in the weeks leading up to the conference. The resource room also includes drawings by Guy Church, a Memphian for over 20 years and a keen observer of the domestic. Church has exhibited at TOPS gallery and his work is included in the Memphis Brooks Museum's permanent collection.

Finally, as a way of extending this conversation about place beyond the walls of this gallery, we're also pleased to present an editioned work by Cat Peña, which you'll find alongside this brochure. Peña is a Memphis artist whose work explores our relationship with nature and the boundaries of our built environment. About this work, titled *Between Views*, Peña says,

For de I constructing home, I draw inspiration from a quote by Wendell Berry that draws attention to America's' misguided understanding of what surrounds us and our disconnection from the natural world. This work, *Between Views*, acts as a parting gift for exhibition attendees, challenging the recipient to look beyond the symbolism and superficiality of our dwellings to reassign value within our original home/place - nature.



front image: *The Dollhouse: Dusk #3*, Heather Benning, 2013
above: still from *Gravity was Everywhere Back Then*, Brent Green, 2010

Heather Benning received her MFA from the Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland and her BFA from Nova Scotia college of Art and Design. Her work has been shown extensively in the US and Canada at venues including the Kohler Arts Center, Estevan Art Gallery, and Norfolk Arts Center.

Brent Green has shown his films and accompanying sculpture internationally and is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. He is a Creative Capital grantee and a participant in the Sundance Writer's and Director's labs.

Cat Peña is an artist and art administrator in Memphis. Her work has been exhibited in group shows in Milwaukee, Seattle, New York, Chicago, Memphis, St. Louis, Boulder, Las Vegas, and Kansas City. Peña is also dedicated to exploring Public Art and Social Practices within educational settings and in collaborations with nonprofits and community organizations.

Originally from Wisconsin, Guy Church lives and works in Memphis. His work has been shown at the University of Memphis and TOPS gallery, and is in the collection of the Memphis Brooks Museum.

This exhibition was curated in collaboration with Karen Patterson, associate curator at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Her primary focus is the Arts Center's premier collection of folk art, self-taught art, and artist environments.