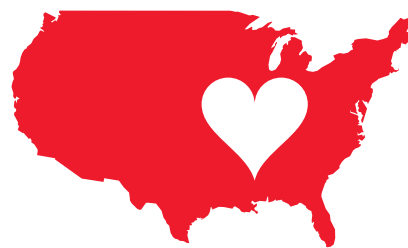


Participating artists and artists collectives

Additions to this selection will be made in the coming months

3/10/08 - 25/1/09



HEART LAND

Otto Berchem

Born 1967, Milford, CT (US)

Lives and works in Amsterdam (NL)

Otto Berchem participated in the first research trip through the Heartland of the United States in Summer, 2007 with exhibition curators Charles Esche and Kerstin Niemann. From March until May this year Berchem lived in Memphis, TN as an artist in residence. With the support of the Rhodes University of Memphis as well as the Memphis College of Art, Otto Berchem explored the cultural history of this area. Despite being born in the US this was the first time that Berchem spent time in the south of the country. Please read more about his encounters in the Heartland region on the weblog:
<http://heartland.vanabbe.nl>.

Juan William Chavez

Born 1977, Lima, Peru

Lives and works in St. Louis, MO (US)

Heartland will include Chavez' multi-media work Drawing on LSD, 2005. One will first encounter two gestural charcoal drawings depicting a chaotically abstracted cityscape. Shown in an adjacent space is a video which clarifies the process of their making: Chavez videotaped himself drawing them while driving along Chicago's famous Lake Shore Drive. These quickly-made, overlapping images capture the changing views of the city framed by the car's windshield during Chavez's north and south-bound drives - the same urban landscape seen daily by thousands of workers commuting in and out of the city.

Chavez studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and the Art Institute of Chicago. His recent body of work focuses on finding value in social situations and capturing them through drawing. In 2006 he moved back to St. Louis to establish Boots Contemporary Art Space, an international space for artists and curators that also publishes its own magazine Boot Print. In the spring he was one of the winners of the Great Rivers Biennial 2008 held at the Contemporary Museum St. Louis.
www.bootsart.com

Jeremiah Day

Born 1974, Plymouth, MA (US)

Lives and works in Amsterdam (NL) and Berlin (DE)

This spring, Jeremiah Day travelled to Alabama (US) to gather material on the history and legacy of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization. Birthed within the broader civil rights movement of the 1960's, the LCFO was a collaborative effort between local citizens and the most aggressive of the civil rights workers who, after the failure to make inroads into the two-party system, experimented with forming local parties. The LCFO was largely successful both in registering first-time voters and in winning local offices and this became the basis for Stokely Carmichael's slogan and book, *Black Power*. With this in mind, Jeremiah Day realized that Lowndes was, and is, a critical exception – the place where the 'Movement' won. Largely unexplored, this story, which inspired the iconic status of the Black Panther Party, is one where the extremely local meets the world-famous, and political theory is weighted with practical reality.

Jeremiah Day plans to work with people associated with the Lowndes Freedom Organization. During his site specific visits he will assemble photographic and film material which he then plans to form into a multi-media installation, presented in the Heartland exhibition.

Jeremiah Day was a resident of the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in 2003/4 in Amsterdam (NL). Together with Simone Forti he has been exhibited at the Project Arts Centre in Dublin (IR) this year and was part of the group exhibition, *Ground Lost*, at Forumstadt Park in Graz (AU), and *Galerie Nova* in Zagreb (CR) last year.

Peter Friedl

Born 1960, Oberneukirchen (AT)

Lives and works in Berlin (DE)

With his work *Map, 1969-2005*, Peter Friedl takes up his own childhood drawing, using a map of the United States to mark territories and movements of North American Indian tribes. Biographical, historical and fictional references combine to form a kind of psycho-geography. Using enlargement, reversal and colouring, this autobiographical document becomes a poster picture which can be read as a comment on the iconography of mapping and to the staging of history.

Before he started working as an artist, Peter Friedl published texts about contemporary theater in the early 80s. In his works Friedl emphasizes the friction between aesthetic and political awareness within the framework of their respective narratives.

Recent exhibitions of Peter Friedl's work were *Working* at Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland in Spring, 2008 as well as his recent exhibition *Blow Job* at Extra City in Antwerp, Belgium. Friedl has been nominated for this year's Vincent Award 2008, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Theaster Gates

Born 1975, Chicago, IL (US)

Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

Theaster Gates is performer, installation artist, and urban planner. His ongoing project, *The Yamaguchi Institute*, revolves around the fictional story of John Yamaguchi, the supposed son of a Japanese Zen potter and a black civil rights activist from Mississippi. This narrative provides a loose frame for a series of activities including *The Black Monks of Mississippi*, a choir whose performances blend gospel and trance; sculptural installations based on the architecture of Japanese tea houses; and feasts in which guests eat sushi and soul food—served up beautifully on "Yamaguchi" ceramics—and talk about issues of race and difference.

For the opening of *Heartland* in Eindhoven, Gates and the *Black Monks of Mississippi* will join with Dutch musicians to present a one-time-only performance. The Monks' music is based in gospel—a traditional form of southern American spiritual music—infused with sounds that hint at Eastern ritual. Like the *Yamaguchi Institute* itself, the Monks blend elements of East and South to create a new kind of cultural hybrid, one that will be expanded further through the collaboration with Dutch musicians.

Gates is a performer, installation artist, and urban planner. He studied at Cape Town University, South Africa and received a master's degree from Iowa State University in urban planning, public sculpture, and religious studies. He has performed and exhibited widely in Chicago and Iceland.

www.theastergates.com

Scott Hocking

Born 1975, Redford Township, MI (US)
Lives and works in Detroit, MI (US)

For over ten years, Scott Hocking has walked crumbling streets and explored decrepit structures within the most devastated sections of Detroit (MI). His art has centered on these experiences: Hocking has created sculptures from scavenged materials, built temporary sculptures within abandoned buildings, and made photographs of urban sites. His work marks 'Motown's transformation from a globally famous engine of American industry and culture to a new kind of sparsely populated, urban territory in which semi-rural landscapes can now be found within once-dense areas of the city.

Heartland will present several groups of Hocking's photographs related to his urban explorations. One haunting new series documents his ongoing construction of a ziggurat within a former auto-industry building. The building has been stripped by scavengers and infiltrated by nature: stalactites like those found in natural caves have even formed as water drips from floor to floor. Over months, through the changing seasons, Hocking revisited the building, using floor tiles to add new layers to his pyramidal sculpture. Several other photographs will situate this project within other sites where nature and culture are coming to new terms within Detroit.

Among others one of Hocking's installations was shown in the 2004 group exhibition *Shrinking Cities* at KUNST-WERKE BERLIN / INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Berlin (DE).
www.scotthocking.com

Matthew Day Jackson

Born 1974, Panorama City, CA (US)
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY (US)

Matthew Day Jackson, an artist from New York City, regularly visited the Heartland region. In his large sculptures, photographs, mixed media installations and drawings, Jackson hauls from the archives, cruel chapters of North American history. To do this he utilizes recurrent motifs from Native American heritage, the iconography of the Civil Rights Movement and other by-products of the US national identity crisis.

For Heartland in the Van Abbemuseum, Matthew Day Jackson will create a new mixed-media installation which also includes a selection from his photographic series *The Lower 48*. Taken over the course of approximately four months while driving through the continental U.S. in the summer and fall of 2006, each of Jackson's 48 photographs depict anthropomorphic land formations from historic regions. Here, Jackson hones in on the details of these sites and composes the images so that decidedly human characteristics are revealed.

Jackson received a BFA from the University of Washington in Seattle and an MFA from Rutgers University. His work has been shown at the Portland Museum of Art Biennial in Portland, Maine, the Whitney Biennial (2006) as well as in the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas.

Carol Jackson

Born 1962, Los Angeles, CA (US)
Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

In her signature tooled leather works, Carol Jackson transforms the advertising imagery she encounters on Chicago's streetscapes. She replaces the catchy slogans and overwrought promises of commercial signs and construction-site billboards, often using phrases from classic epic literature. In addition to embellishing the leather by painting and stamping its surface, she sometimes includes collaged elements that add further layers of texture and imagery. By making leather her medium of choice, Jackson lightly touches on certain facets of Midwestern place: the cattle industry that first contributed to Chicago's rise, and craft traditions of decorative leatherworking.

Jackson's works in Heartland focus on the glitz and promise of real estate advertising, with its suggestion that you too can own a piece of the American dream. Although Jackson began this body of work during the American housing boom, they take on additional poignancy in the midst of the current collapse of the U.S. real estate market.

Jackson received a BFA from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she is currently a professor. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held in Chicago, New York, and Italy, including a recent exhibition at Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago.

Kerry James Marshall

Born 1955, Birmingham, AL (US)

Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

Kerry James Marshall probes the complexities of black American experience in works that range in mood from deeply humanistic to exquisitely caustic. He is best known for a series of large-scale paintings from the mid-1990s that allegorize life in urban housing projects. His practice also includes drawing, photography, sculpture, video, and print-based work.

Marshall's presence in Heartland will center on two related works. *Rhythm Mastr (Dailies)*, a series of black-and-white, comic-book-style prints on newsprint, follows a group of black Americans through daily life and existential encounters set within a slightly futuristic version of the south side of Chicago. For Heartland, Marshall will update the series by adding Dutch translations to accompany the Chinese and English dialogue that already form part of the work.

The triptych *Heirlooms and Accessories* may at first glance seem harmlessly pretty: each large print in its rhinestone-studded frame seems merely to depict an antique necklace. A closer look reveals that the background is in fact a very faint image of a famous journalistic photograph from 1930 that shows a white crowd watching the lynching of two black men in Marion, Indiana. Marshall digitally lightened the image and added the necklaces to highlight three women within the crowd. Each has turned away from the lynching to look at the photographer, whose place we occupy in turn, as viewers. The eye contact we make with these women implicates us as bystanders of this bleak history, and the title raises questions about how individuals and cultures chose to address, forget, or deny the darker sides of their heritage.

Marshall holds a BFA and honorary doctorate from Otis College of Art, Los Angeles. His work has been exhibited in many American and international exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale (2003) and the Documenta (1997 and 2007).

Greely Myatt

Born 1952, Aberdeen, MS (US)

Lives and works in Memphis, TN (US)

Greely Myatt's *Mitotes* are sculptures made of clusters of the old brooms and mob handles he inherited, bought or found. These everyday objects of the domestic and vernacular speak of the rural South of America. In his work, Myatt often uses found materials which show their previous lives. In the new context of the Van Abbemuseum, he is presenting *Mitotes* and other related works in a single room of the exhibition space. Although most sculptures were made between 2006 -2008, they are part of a larger body of work that started in the 90s.

Greely Myatt was born and educated in Mississippi. He currently lives and works in Memphis, Tennessee, where he is Professor of Art at The University of Memphis. His sculptures and installations have been exhibited in over 25 solo and numerous group exhibitions across the United States, Europe and Japan. He has received grants and fellowships from the Tennessee Arts Commission, The University of Memphis, The University of Georgia, *Alternate Roots*, Atlanta, and received the Mississippi Arts and Letters Visual Arts Award. He is represented by Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, and David Lusk Gallery, Memphis.

Dan Peterman

Born 1960, Minneapolis, MN (US)

Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

Dan Peterman has been commissioned to create a new work for Heartland. For this new project, he and several collaborators will travel along the Illinois River by foot, bike, and canoe. These human-powered modes of transportation provide a slow way to experience this waterway, which was a historically crucial part of the system connecting the Mississippi River to Chicago. The resulting video—which will likely offer simply edited, meditative images of the river and the passing landscape—will introduce a specific facet of the Midwestern landscape. The project extends Peterman's long-term investigations into the ways that natural, commercial, and cultural systems intersect.

Peterman holds a BFA from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA from the University of Chicago. He has exhibited widely in the US and Europe, including solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Kunstverein Hannover, and the Kunsthalle Basel. Recent group exhibitions include the Sharjah Biennial. Peterman is also one of the founders of the Experimental Station, an incubator for innovative small-scale culture and community-building projects located on the South Side of Chicago.

www.experimentalstation.org

Marjetica Potrč

Born 1953, Ljubljana (SI)

Lives and works in Ljubljana (SI)

Marjetica Potrč has focused much of her research on the ad-hoc architecture, objects, and community networks developed by people living in unstable conditions at the edges of global cities. She often works in a case study mode, using the gallery as a space to make visible creative responses to unsustainable conditions, and to reflect upon them as potential models for change.

Potrč will be represented in Heartland by a body of work that she created in response to the grass-roots beginnings of New Orleans' recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The large sculpture *New Orleans: Shotgun House with Rainwater-Harvesting Tank* is based on a simple type of domestic architecture with a rich history. The shotgun house probably spread from the Caribbean to New Orleans and then throughout lower-income neighbourhoods in other parts of the United States, and has recently been reclaimed as an important type of vernacular architecture. It offers a reminder of New Orleans' role as a multicultural port city—the Mississippi delta was once one of the first points of entry for many immigrants. As re-imagined by Potrč, the sculpture also stands as a monument to the displacement of New Orleans' citizens and their collective efforts to revive their home in a more socially and environmentally sustainable way.

Accompanying the sculpture is *The Great Republic of New Orleans, 2007*, a group of brightly coloured, loosely rendered text-and-image drawings. In them, Potrč expands the context to consider new ways of living in relation to the wetlands and watersheds that surround the city. This section of her project joins a series of works in Heartland by Matt Bakkom, Dan Peterman, and Alec Soth, that call attention to the interaction between nature and culture through the waterways that form one of the core features of the landscapes, cultures, and economies of the central United States.

Her work has been featured in exhibitions throughout Europe and the Americas, including the Sao Paulo Biennial in Brazil (1996 and 2006); *Skulptur. Projekte* in Muenster, Germany (1997); *The Structure of Survival* at the Venice Biennial (2003) and others.

www.potrc.org

Michael Rakowitz

Born 1973, Great Neck, NY (US)

Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

Michael Rakowitz uses both practical and metaphoric strategies to call attention to social needs and failures. His early work had a strong emphasis on inequities within built environments such as the inaccessibility of affordable shelter in America's cities or the imploded legacy of failure within its public housing system. His hybrid art draws on a variety of other realms—design, architecture, urban planning, activism, entrepreneurship—and includes sculpture, intervention, performance, installation, and drawing. Some of his projects are designed solely for presentation within gallery spaces. Others are meant to function outside, often by offering temporary, imperfect solutions that simultaneously fulfill needs and call attention to untenable situations.

Heartland will feature the installation *Dull Roar*. This work centers, literally and figuratively, on a large inflatable sculpture based on the controversial legacy of the 1950s Pruitt-Igoe housing complex in St. Louis. Designed by architect Minuro Yamasaki, who would later go on to design the World Trade Center, the complex was demolished less than twenty years after it opened. Architect and theorist Charles Jencks would later remark, "Modern architecture died in St. Louis, Missouri on July 15, 1972 at 3:32 pm when the infamous Pruitt-Igoe scheme, or rather several of its slab blocks, were given the final coup de grace by dynamite." Rakowitz invites us to revisit that moment, again and again, as the sculpture repeatedly inflates and collapses. A walkway/viewing platform will be constructed on site in the Van Abbemuseum in order to lead viewers around the work; a series of related drawings also form part of this installation.

Rakowitz finished his Master of Science in Visual Studies at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Cambridge (MA, US) in 1998. Over the past year Rakowitz has been featured in the current Biennial of Sydney, the Istanbul Biennial (2007), and the Sharjah Biennial (2007), for which he received the Sharjah Biennial Jury Award.

www.michaelrakowitz.com

Julika Rudelius

Born 1968, Cologne (DE)

Lives and works in Amsterdam (NL) and New York (US)

Julika Rudelius is one of the Heartland's invited artists in residence and has been travelling and working in the US since Spring, 2008. She has been conducting research on ambitious young people who want to pursue careers in the political landscape of the US; she is particularly interested in the unspoken codes and expectations that aspiring politicians must master. Rudelius started her project at the University of Chicago and Washington D.C. Her methodology has involved extensive interviews and close observation of subtle interactions and behavior patterns among students and professors from the Heartland region, as well as experienced political professionals. Rudelius plans for her research to take shape as a new multi-channel video work that probes the nature of political charisma.

Among other institutions, Julika Rudelius studied at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. Her most recent exhibitions were *Élégance* at Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne, Germany as well as *Global Feminisms* at the Brooklyn Museum in New York.

www.rudelius.org

Wilhelm Sasnal

Born 1972, Tarnow (PL)

Lives and works in Tarnow (PL)

The documentary film *The River*, 2006, by the Polish artist, Wilhelm Sasnal, shows a number of unknown amateur bands from the North American West Coast and Poland, all of whom are rehearsing a piece based on the book *The River* (1938) by Pare Lorentz. This book appeared in conjunction with a pioneering documentary of the same title by Lorentz about the industrialization of the impoverished Mississippi region (considered essential at the time), the accompanying mismanagement of the region's natural resources and the disastrous floods that resulted in 1937. The book includes a solemn free-verse commentary and a musical composition by Virgil Thompson. The bands use the free verse as lyrics and set it to their own music. This gives the historic context a contemporary, popular dimension that reflects on this largely disadvantaged area of the United States.

The Van Abbemuseum organized an exhibition with films and works of Wilhelm Sasnal in 2006. With his work *The River* Wilhelm Sasnal won the Vincent Award, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam in 2006.

Deb Sokolow

Born 1974, Davis, CA (US)

Lives and works in Chicago, IL (US)

Deb Sokolow makes elaborate text-and-image wall drawings in which a paranoid narrator—the artist's alter ego—investigates conspiracies that seem to be lurking just beneath the surface of daily life. Often set in the Midwest, Sokolow's works involve the viewer/reader in the paranoid narrator's process of research and discovery. We read along as she follows clues, and are also given a glimpse into her psyche: texts written in different colours provide running commentary from the narrator's cynical inner self. In these works, Sokolow playfully explores ways that we are all embedded within complex, interconnected global networks and political structures. She also suggests that with careful attention, an intrepid spirit, and a dash of imagination we might all be able to uncover the surprising ways that powerful, unseen forces shape even our most mundane experiences.

Sokolow will create a new work for Heartland, produced partially in her home in Chicago and partially on-site during a residency in Eindhoven. *Dear Trusted Associate* begins in Chicago with the paranoid narrator's receipt of a Nigerian scam e-mail that holds out the possibility of great financial gain but also states that the narrator may be in danger. The narrator follows clues that lead her to Eindhoven, where she continues to investigate these mysterious events within the city's streets. Sokolow will tell this complexly woven, cross-continental narrative within a large installation that combines drawings on paper with text and images drawn directly on the walls of the Van Abbemuseum.

She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996, and received her MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004. Just recently she was featured in a solo exhibition *You are one step closer to learning the truth* in the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City(KA).

<http://debsokolow.com>

Alec Soth

Born 1969 in Minneapolis, MN (US)

Lives and works in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (US)

The photographer Alec Soth grew up on the river, and his first book, *Sleeping by the Mississippi* (2004), was the outcome of a five-year journey along its banks from the north to the south of the country. Soth's photography goes beyond an attempt at objectivity and includes portraits, landscapes, and interior still lifes alongside the Mississippi river. A selection of these images can be seen in the Heartland exhibition in Eindhoven.

Alec Soth also works as a Magnum photographer and in Spring, 2008 his works were displayed in a solo exhibition at Jeu de Paume.

www.alecsoth.com

The Miss Rockaway Armada

Group of 30 artists from various states in the US

The majority of the group live and work in New York City, NY (US)

The Miss Rockaway Armada is a group performers and artists from all over the United States. Together they floated down the Mississippi river, from Minneapolis to New Orleans, during two summers on a selfmade flotilla of rafts. Out of adventure and the urge to make the impossible happen. But also because they know what it means to grow up in the smalltown heart of their country, where nothing much happens out of the ordinary.

Stopping along the way, the Miss Rockaway Armada hosted musical performances and vaudeville variety-theater, workshops and dialogue around subversive and constructive ways of living. As a group of intrepids they believe in a hands-on, live-by-example approach to creating change within culture, thereby taking cues from Johnny Appleseed, traveling medicine shows, nomadic jewel box theater, and of course that old radical Mark Twain.

This autumn, the weekend right after the American elections (7-9th of November), the Armada anchors in Eindhoven invited by MU and Van Abbemuseum for a long weekend of performance, music, art and talks. In the basement of Stroomhuis they will build a temporary environment that echoes their river experiences, including the one they will have on the Hudson this august and september.

www.missrockaway.org