

KIENHOLZ

14 May – 29 August 2005

Levels 3 & 4

Preview: Friday 13 May, 19.00-21.00 (continues in the Riverside Restaurant)

Press preview: Friday 13 May, (by arrangement)

The powerful and provocative work of American artists Edward Kienholz and Nancy Reddin Kienholz is presented in an exhibition which takes over two gallery spaces at BALTIC from 14 May until 29 August. The ground-breaking exhibition, with works from 1963-2004, is the only presentation of the work by the Kienholzes in this country since 1971. Edward Kienholz (1927-1994) worked first alone and later with his wife Nancy, the co-author of their works from 1972. The exhibition combines works made by Ed from 1963, collaborative pieces from 1972, and more recent works by Nancy. It presents a rare opportunity to see a unique collection of works not previously shown in the UK. The impact of the Kienholzes work on art of the last twenty five years is undeniable, introducing amongst other things, the now familiar use of installation in contemporary art.

The exhibition comprises over seventy works ranging from the influential 'Concept Tableaux' and watercolours made by Ed in the 1960s, to the large room-sized environments of the 1980s, and includes several major environments: *The Ozymandias Parade*, (1985), *The Merry-Go-World Or Begat By Chance and the Wonder Horse Trigger*, (1988-92) and *The Hoerengracht*, (1983-88). *The Ozymandias Parade*, a huge mirrored float, is almost nine metres long and features caricatured leaders in the form of mannequins, two of whom ride life-size fibreglass horses. The third - a skeletal woman - is intended to represent the overburdened taxpayer. *The Hoerengracht* (1983-88) is a tableaux that recreates in grimy detail, a street in a red light district. This work, measuring more than thirteen meters across, is one of the most ambitious life-size environments ever undertaken by the artists. As with many of the works, it positions the viewer as a voyeur, implicating them in scenes they might rather ignore and thereby challenging them to confront the injustices of the world around them.

The artists produce passionate, often brutal works of social and political satire that critique modern society and adopt a strong anti-establishment position. Several works in the exhibition (for example *The Non-War Memorial* 1970) were made in direct response to the US engagement in Vietnam. The exhibition also includes a room dedicated to 'TV works' – a direct comment by the artists on the enduring failure of the media to contribute meaningfully to democracy. Compelled by a deep sense of moral justice and a provocative sense of humour, the artists' uncompromising creations continue to have a searing energy and pose a direct challenge to the viewer. *KIENHOLZ* at BALTIC presents powerful works which remain shocking, yet compelling, and which continue to have a strong resonance now.

Curated and organised by BALTIC in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney



This exhibition is supported by the Henry Moore Foundation

Notes to Editors

Following its presentation at BALTIC, *KIENHOLZ* will tour to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney from 16 December 2005 – 5 March 2006.

A new publication on the work of Edward and Nancy Reddin Kienholz is being produced in conjunction with the exhibition, published by BALTIC in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. It contains essays by David Anfam, Rosetta Brooks and Edward Allington and copies of the book will be available from the BALTIC Shop from mid May 2005.

Talks & Events

An artist talk by Nancy Reddin Kienholz and Marco Livingstone, is taking place at BALTIC from 18.30-19.30 on Thursday 2 June. Marco Livingstone is an art historian, an independent curator and author of *Pop Art: A Continuing History*. Places at the talk are free, but numbers are limited and pre-booking is essential. Please call 0191 478 1810 or email info@balticmill.com

A programme of films on the Kienholzes work, including the 1961 film *The Story of an Artist* directed by David Wolper on the work of Ed Kienholz, is being screened at BALTIC. More information will be available on the BALTIC website in due course. www.balticmill.com

For further press information and images please contact Nina Byrne, Media Officer on 0191 440 4915 or email ninab@balticmill.com

BALTIC

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Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 10.00 - 18.00,
Thurs 10.00 - 20.00
Admission Free

Biography

Edward Ralph Kienholz (1927-1994), and Nancy Reddin Kienholz (b 1943) first met in Los Angeles in 1972. The artists worked together on numerous installations and in 1981, Ed made a statement to say that all works from 1972 onwards would bear the signatures of both artists.

Ed lived in Los Angeles from 1953-1973 with his first solo exhibition in 1955. In 1966 the Los Angeles County Museum hosted his first retrospective. Both Ed's early independent works and the artists' collaborative projects have been included in major exhibitions across North America, Asia and mainland Europe.

Prestigious group exhibitions include: Documenta 4 + 5 (1968 & 1973, Kassel, Germany), Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial (1981, New York), the Biennale of Sydney (1988, Australia), and the Biennale di Venezia (1990, Italy). The artists' first joint retrospective was organised in 1996 by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and it travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and Berlinische Galerie, Berlin.

The Kienholzes work can be found in numerous American and international public art collections, including those of Centre National d'art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; Los Angeles County Museum of Modern Art, L.A.; The Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk; The Menil Collection, Houston; The Moderna Museet, Stockholm; the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Caracas; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Neue Nationalgalerie & Berlinische Galerie, Berlin; the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; the Stedelijk, Amsterdam; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, California has had a long-standing relationship with the Kienholzes and has represented the artists work for over twenty three years.

Nancy Reddin Kienholz lives and works in Hope, Idaho; Houston, Texas; and Berlin, Germany.