

**The River is the Road: Ruidosa Art Happening
Presents
DRIFT Video Night**



Irvin Morazan, *The Guardian of the Thicket Performance*, S-file Biennial, Socrates Sculpture Park, N.Y. '11

Join us for an evening of video shorts by artists from the East Coast and Southwest. Site-specific performances by New York artists Irvin Morazan and Geoffrey Hendricks (performed by Eileen Torpey & guests), and a new film by Matthew Day Jackson "In Search of... Ghosts"

Saturday, September 17th, 2011

Performances begin at 7:00pm followed by 1.5 hour video screening in the abandoned Sacred Heart Church, Ruidosa, Texas

Curated by: Eileen Olivieri Torpey
Conceived & Coordinated by: Bett Williams & Mattie Matthaei
Funded by: The Idea Fund

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www.driftartproject.com, www.theideafund.org
Find us on Facebook @ The River is the Road: Ruidosa Art Happening

Admission is Free

Participating Artists: Hakim Bellamy, Katrina Bello, Gretchen Bennett, Saul Chernick, Stephanie Dinkins, Geoffrey Hendricks, Matthew Day Jackson, Guatam Kansara, William Lamson, Teresa Margolles, Irvin Morazan, Kelly Oliver & Keary Rosen, Trevino Brings Plenty, Zach Rockhill, Manohari Sipowicz, Eileen Torpey, Suara Welitoff, Aaron Williams, Bett Williams, Yak Films and others.

Location History: Ruidosa, Texas is at the heart of a centuries old struggle between human inhabitants ranging from the Apaches, the Jumano's and Cabeza de Vaca, to Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution, on to the current political climate regarding immigration policies. The town is quite remote, with a current population of only thirteen residents. There has, however, been a lot of traffic through the area recently due to the Chinati Hot Springs and it's close proximity (55 miles) to Marfa, TX.

The Ruidosa area is unusual in its borderland relations. From the foot-bridge that 86 year old Ms. Johnny Chambers built up river that served as an unofficial crossing for decades, to the cantina where cowboys and vaqueros live a Saturday night, Ruidosa is a uniquely harmonious place. Many have witnessed the daily comings and goings of Mexicans and Texans both legally and illegally crossing the river. Only recently has the border patrol begun to alter centuries old traditions. Ultimately, the Rio Grande River is a connecting force, not a border in Ruidosa.

Description/History: DRIFT is a group exhibition that moves to a new location every year. The exhibition characterizes the impermanence and site-specificity of the artworks as well as the adaptive qualities of the participating artists. DRIFT highlights under represented talented artists while emphasizing the critical role of experimentation and process within conventional and unconventional exhibition spaces.

DRIFT was founded by Eileen Olivieri Torpey in the winter of 2002 as a one-day exhibition on the Jersey Shore. The Atlantic Ocean inspired temporary works by twelve artists from the greater New York City area. Fluxus artist, Geoffrey Hendricks, punctuated the day with a famous headstand on a pile of ocean boulders. In 2003 the show moved to a former home of Buckminster Fuller, River Run Farm in New Jersey. Artists responded to thirty acres of pastoral/river landscapes and the cultural history of the farm, which was part of the Underground Railroad in the early 1800's.

In 2004 DRIFT took place at Valentino Pier Park, located on the Buttermilk Channel in Red Hook Brooklyn. The exhibition featured 20 artists working in video, painting, sculpture, installation and sound. Red Hook was one of the first areas in Brooklyn to be inhabited by Algonquian tribes and later settled by the Dutch. The surrounding landscape was named for its red clay soil and hook shaped peninsula.

DRIFT continued in 2006 at the Bronx River Art Center in the South Central Bronx and included 28 artists working in sculpture, installation, video and performance. The Mohicans were the first people to live and fish along the river and named it Aquehung or "River of High Bluffs." In November 2007, the 5th annual DRIFT was celebrated as a three-day video installation at Rush Arts Gallery in the Chelsea Arts district, New York City. The opening reception included live performances by Geoffrey Hendricks, Wayne Hodge, Tattfoo Tan, Danielle Abrams and Michael Maxwell. The show featured twelve video artists from around the world and was co-curated by Bradley Pecore (PhD candidate, Cornell University).

DRIFT 2010 existed as a one night screening at Little Wing Performance Space in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The show included conceptual pieces by 20 artists from New Mexico, New York City and Austria as well as a live spoken word performance by Hakim Bellamy.

***This event has been made possible through funding from the Idea Fund and through a private donation in New Mexico.**