

ONE DAY SCULPTURE

A NEW ZEALAND-WIDE SERIES OF TEMPORARY PUBLIC ARTWORKS

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: Thursday 5 February 2009

ARTIST SHINES LIGHT ON OUT-OF-PLACE HOUSES



Spanish artist Lara Almarcegui's One Day Sculpture project will offer a rare insight into the histories of a group of relocated houses that reside temporarily on the outskirts of Wellington. *Relocated Houses, Brittons Yard, 2009* is commissioned as part of the year-long series by the Litmus Research Initiative, School of Fine Arts, Massey University and will take place on Friday 13 February, comprising:

- A history of the houses published as part of the *Dominion Post* newspaper, and
- A twilight tour of Brittons Housemovers Yard, Haywards Hill Road, Wellington from 6.30 - 8.30pm

The highly atmospheric Brittons Housemovers Yard was the inspiration for the project. Rotterdam-based artist Lara Almarcegui discovered this strange 'street' of houses on her initial research visit to New Zealand in March 2008. Never intended to be sited side by side, the buildings have been removed from the city and surrounding region to this curious way-station, awaiting sale, unoccupied and unfurnished, some in a state of disrepair, others relatively pristine.

Drawing on her experience of researching the histories of wastelands and ruins around the world, Almarcegui has worked intensively to trace the roots of each house. The resulting One Day Sculpture project on Friday 13 February sees the publication of the houses' histories in the *Dominion Post* and the artist extends an invitation to visitors to join her on an exclusive tour of the street at Brittons Yard from 6.30-8.30pm.

Curator of the One Day Sculpture series, Claire Doherty remarks: "Though the individual stories of each of the houses may touch on personal histories, it is the potential for these buildings to tell us about the moments of change in Wellington's histories that most interests the artist

Doherty goes on to say that by inviting us to visit the yard with her one evening, "Almarcegui coaxes us to look not simply at what these buildings are, but why and how they are here, and in turn to speculate on the processes of change in our built environment."

Return transport is offered from the city centre to Britton's Yard. Mini vans will leave from outside the entrance to the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa at 6pm and 6.45pm, returning to Wellington at 7.45pm and 8.45pm. Gold coin donation.

Almarcegui's project is the sixth new artwork for Wellington in the One Day Sculpture series. Previous works include a dramatic barricade which blocked Stout St (by the British duo Heather and Ivan Morison); a chorus of bells sounding a flood warning through the central city (Amy Howden-Chapman); and a soup kitchen commemorating a race-based murder (Kah Bee Chow). The series continues though until June 2009, with new works for Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington and Christchurch and an international symposium at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa all occurring in March.

ALSO COMING UP NEXT WEEK:

BEDWYR WILLIAMS – LE 'WELSH' MAN'S 24 HOUR

Thursday 12 February 2009, 00.00 – 24.00

Around Wellington, beginning and ending at the carpark next to Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Swan Lane, off Cuba St

Feeling that every one of the 24 hours should count, Welsh artist Bedwyr Williams' contribution to the ONE DAY SCULPTURE series brings us the intrepid combination of motor-sports and art. Williams' work will take the form of an art gumball rally around Wellington – a rally in which he is the only contestant. Witness the artist's endurance as he attempts to complete 24 paintings in 24 hours travelling from one location to another in an old station wagon!

Commissioned by Enjoy Public Art Gallery

PUBLIC TALK – LARA ALMARCEGUI AND BEDWYR WILLIAMS

Sunday 15 February 2009, 4 – 6pm

Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Level 1, 147 Cuba St

Join artists Lara Almarcegui and Bedwyr Williams for an informal talk about their One Day Sculpture projects. The artists will be joined by David Cross, director of the Litmus Research Initiative (Massey University School of Fine Arts) and invited respondents. Come armed with questions, and join us afterwards for a Singapore Sling.

For more information on all the projects and public programme events please visit:
www.onedaysculpture.org.nz

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For high-res images of the work or to arrange an interview with the artist, please contact:

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Image credit: Brittons Yard. Photo: Lara Almarcegui

NOTES TO EDITORS

Lara Almarcegui

The work of artist Lara Almarcegui often explores neglected or overlooked sites, carefully cataloguing and highlighting each location's tendency towards entropy. Her projects have ranged from a guide to the wastelands of Amsterdam, to the display 'in their raw form' of the materials used to construct the galleries in which she exhibits. Her works are simple actions that belie the rigorous research process she undertakes to achieve them. Construction materials of Frieze Art Fair, Almarcegui's project for Frieze Art Fair, London (2006), presented a large-scale wall text documenting the range and volume of the material components of the architectural structure of the fair. The list highlighted the scale of the event as well as its transitory nature, and as such represented an alternative way of drawing attention to, and experiencing, the site of exhibition. Characteristic of her engagements with public space, Almarcegui 2003 project for INDEX, Stockholm, involved her occupation and renovation of a boat abandoned, since the 1920s, on the banks of Arsta Bay in Stockholm.

Recent group exhibitions include: Taipei Biennial; Gwangyu Biennial; LIAF Arts Festival, Svoelvaer, Sandretto Foundation (2008), Sharjah Art Biennial (2007), the 27th Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo (2006), the 2nd Seville Biennial, Seville (2006), Momentum, Nordic Festival of Contemporary Art, Moss (2006) and Offentlig handling (Public Act), Lunds Konsthall, Lund (2005). Recent solo exhibitions include the Gallery Ellen de Bruin Projects, Amsterdam; Sala Rekalde, Bilbao; Gallery Pepe Cobo, Madrid (2008); Malaga Centre of Contemporary Art, Malaga (2007), the FRAC Bourgogne, Dijon (2004) and INDEX, Stockholm (2003).

Almarcegui was born in Zaragoza, Spain in 1972 and studied Fine Arts in Cuenca (1991 - 95) and at the Ateliers 63, Amsterdam (1996 - 98). She currently lives and works in Rotterdam.

One Day Sculpture – www.onedaysculpture.org.nz

One Day Sculpture is a series of temporary public artworks by leading New Zealand-based and international artists. It is first event of its kind to happen, both locally and internationally. The series, which runs until June 2009, takes place across five cities in New Zealand and involves the creation of more than 20 new artworks, each of which will last no longer than 24 hours. The one-day artworks will all be located in the public domain – beyond conventional galleries or museums – and occur within their own discrete 24-hour period.

One Day Sculpture is led by the Litmus Research Initiative, Massey University with UK curator Claire Doherty and realised in partnership with arts organisations across New Zealand.

Relocated Houses, Brittons Yard, 2009 is the ninth One Day Sculpture project to date. The next occurs in Wellington on Friday 6 March, with the remaining 11 projects realised in Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington and Christchurch in the first half of 2009.

For more information on all the projects in the series, please see our website: www.onedaysculpture.org.nz

Acknowledgements

Lara Almarcegui *Relocated Houses, Brittons Yard, 2009* is commissioned by Litmus Research Initiative. Realised with major funding support from Mondriaan Foundation, SEACEX, Wellington City Council Public Art Fund, Massey University Foundation, Massey University College of Creative Arts and Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Bedwyr Williams' *Le 'Welsh' Man's 24 hour* is commissioned by Enjoy Public Art Gallery. Curated by Siv B. Fjærestad. The project is realised with the generous support of Wales Art International, The British Council, Wellington City Council Public Art Fund and Creative New Zealand.

One Day Sculpture is a Massey University College of Creative Arts, School of Fine Arts, Litmus Research Initiative.