

GRIMM



Erin Shirreff: Two Buildings

Exhibition: 10 – 24 May 2011, Keizergracht 82

GRIMM is proud to present a solo presentation by Erin Shirreff (1975, British Columbia). Shirreff is an artist working in multiple media including sculpture, video and photography. For her first solo presentation in Amsterdam the artist presents two single-channel video works: *UN 2010* (2010) and *Ansel Adams, RCA Building, circa 1940* (2009).

Both videos are composed of hundreds of re-photographed images. In the case of *Ansel Adams, RCA Building, circa 1940*, a reproduction of the Ansel Adams image was photographed by Shirreff over the course of a single afternoon. Sunlight and shadow slowly pass over its surface, altering both the appearance of the photographed building and, seemingly, the atmospheric conditions within the image itself. The once static print comes to life as we are caught between an apparent illusion and the evidence of its simple construction.

For *UN 2010*, Shirreff left the studio to make hundreds of photos of the United Nations building over the course of one month. From a vantage point across the East River she captured the building's blank façade in all weather, day and night. She re-photographed the resulting images in her studio under various analog lighting conditions; the final program is composed from these secondary sources. At times the camera's flash or a stray shadow appear on the surface of the print, but more often we are absorbed into the space of the image itself. Hours seem to pass in silence: the sun rises, a blinding light crosses the frame like a slow-moving explosion, a searchlight rakes the river's surface, the sky darkens as though we're watching night fall.

Despite their imagery, these works aren't about architecture or the built environment. Rather, with their minimal action and slow pacing, they are studies of recognition and perception, and explore in particular the impact our experience of time has on how and what we see. For a related video not included in this exhibition, Shirreff re-photographed a single image of James Turrell's earthwork, Roden Crater. Like Turrell, Shirreff is interested in how color and light influence vision but, as in the films of James Benning or Michael Snow, it is duration and the uncanny experience of time frozen, yet passing, that is pivotal to these works.

Shirreff received a MFA in Sculpture from Yale University and a BFA from the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Her recent exhibitions include a solo presentation, *Still, Flat, and Far*, at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, a two-person show in the Front Room at the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis. Recent group exhibition include *Knight's Move* at Sculpture Center, Queens, *Greater New York* at MoMA PS1, *Between Here and There* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Immaterial* at Ballroom Marfa, and *To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Belong?* at The Power Plant, Toronto.

The exhibition runs from 10 May – 24 May 2011, at Keizersgracht 82, 1015 CT, Amsterdam. GRIMM is open from Wednesday – Saturday, 12.00 am. – 6.00 pm.

For more information, please contact: +31 (0) 20 675 2465 or info@grimmgallery.com.