

Fellows
of Contemporary
Art

Opening reception → Thursday March 6, 2008, 6–8 pm
Curator's talk → Thursday April 17, 2008, 7.30 pm

from

a

→ bulbo → Bia Gayotto → Elana Mann → Vincent Ramos
→ Linda Samuels → Jane Tsong

→ Curated by Donna Conwell

to

From A to B
March 6–May 3, 2008
Fellows of Contemporary Art

Exhibition hours → Wednesday–Friday, 10 am–6 pm
Saturdays 12–4 pm | And by appointment

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From A to B invites six Los Angeles-based artists to conduct urban investigations into the psychological, spatial, and discursive field of the commute. By exploring, mapping, and intervening in familiar commuter routes traversed on a daily basis, the artists challenge us to reconsider our relationship to a space occupied by the average Angeleno for over 368 hours per year—the equivalent of fifteen 24-hour days.

What occurs in this strange, overlooked conduit between here and there? Is the commute a threshold between two points of mooring, a space of passage where individuals transition between their private and public selves? Or does the condition of being neither here nor there have another underlying quality that we have yet to recognize and explore?

Throughout the exhibition **From A to B** and in a series of related off-site activities, audiences are encouraged to revisit the itinerant space of their own commute and join us in probing its potential meaning.

See www.focala.org and www.atobcommute.blogspot.com for more information about **From A to B** and related events.



bulbo

TJ to LA → bulbo have produced a five-minute streaming video webcast that explores the lives of individuals who have relocated from Tijuana to Los Angeles for employment, education, or personal reasons. This work examines the process of displacement that occurs when one substitutes one place (and perhaps one sense of identity) for another. Utilizing the etymology of 'commute'—from the Latin 'commutare,' to change or exchange—bulbo explores how these commuters progressively become more embedded in one city than the other. **TJ to LA** brings together people who, despite sharing a similar but solitary commuting experience, had hitherto been unaware of one another's existence.



Bia Gayotto

Xing LA: From Altadena to Long Beach → Bia Gayotto investigates the mobile space of the commute, exploring three parallel routes by foot, by train, and by car. Using a video camera and monopod, she documents her disparate journeys. The resulting videos recall the style of early travelogues, featuring establishing shots with formal compositions and minimal camera movement. From footslogging to rail to automobile, Gayotto juxtaposes distinct modes of transportation that have superseded one another over time and prompts us to examine how the way we travel affects our experience of moving through space. Charting the in-between space of the commute, this artist's travelogue reveals the physical and social landscape of Los Angeles.



Elana Mann

Shifting → Elana Mann traces the ebb and flow of traffic, oil, and war through the mundane and divergent experiences of commuters, revealing commuting as one of the most solitary, communal, and political of our daily activities. The project features a listening station embedded with a sound map of recordings from eleven commuters in Los Angeles and Iraq. Mann has also reproduced the sound map as an unlimited-edition CD of 29 minutes—the average length of a commute in Los Angeles—that is available in the exhibition space and as a downloadable MP3 at www.focala.org. Through this sound map, the mutually-implicated spaces of the highways of Los Angeles and the roads of Iraq are extended into the commutes of the gallery audience.



Vincent Ramos

The Commuter → Vincent Ramos attempts to reconstruct a selection of his family's work-related commutes in Los Angeles over a twenty-year period that spans the mid-Fifties to the mid-Seventies. Ramos establishes a point A and point B, through informal interviews with his participants, and by consulting their personal papers, related mass-media ephemera, and public archives. However, piecing together the physical route between these two positions becomes a speculative exercise frustrated by the erasure of memory. In **The Commuter**, the space of the commute is a locus for reminiscences, fleeting musings, and half-remembered anecdotes that are ultimately entangled within the broader social, cultural, and political dimensions of the working-class Chicano experience.



Linda Samuels

"During My Commute . . ." → More than a side effect of labor, the space through which we commute is simultaneously an extension of our private realms and an opportunity to join the larger mobile public. For **"During My Commute . . ."**, Linda Samuels finesses basic photographic variables to document the subtle changes of the commuter route. Taken using a pinhole camera with its minute aperture, her time-spanning images capture the commute's duration from A to B and back again. Interested in the inadvertent intersection of public and private that occurs in the space of the road, Samuels has produced two sets of postcards for the audience to take away, complete, and return for installation.



Jane Tsong

Everything Is Still Alive → Jane Tsong has traced her commute by planting native California poppies on patches of exposed earth along the route. Traversing Highland Park via Pasadena to San Marino, the route crosses a historically working-class Latino community, a middle-class neighborhood, and an upper-class enclave. Excavating the sediment of the city, Tsong's project recalls fields of wildflowers described by early settlers before the land was subdivided and developed. Documentation of the project will be on view in the exhibition space, and regular updates tracking both the progress of the poppies and news of a bike ride to see the blossoming wildflowers at their peak will be accessible at www.atobcommute.blogspot.com.