

EK

VEGA  
RISTOFFERSON  
VARREN OATES  
HANO URJET

ARTISTS

- JAMES ANGUS (AU)
- JOSE DÁVILA (MX)
- CEAL FLOYER(UK)
- SHAUN GLADWELL (AU)
- RIKARD LUNDSTEDT (SE)
- ANDREW MCLEOD (NZ)
- JOHN MARRIOTT (CA)
- TV MOORE (AU/US)
- JAAKKO NIEMELÄ (FI)
- OLO (FI)
- ANU PENNANEN (FI)
- JIM SPEERS (NZ)
- JOHAN THURFJELL (SE)
- RAFFAEL WALDNER (CH/UK)
- BRENDON WILKINSON (NZ)
- RI WILLIAMSON (NZ)

GRIDLOCK :

CITIES , STRUCTURES , SPACES  
21 AUGUST - 17 OCTOBER 2004

# GRIDLOCK:

CITIES, STRUCTURES, SPACES  
21 AUGUST - 17 OCTOBER 2004

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery presents **Gridlock: cities, structures, spaces** the latest in a series of thematic exhibitions that include **Drive: power, progress, desire** 2000, **Extended Play: art remixing music** 2003, and **Bloom: mutation, toxicity and the sublime** 2003. The exhibitions in this series interpret the response of artists to prescient and problematic developments in contemporary culture. **Gridlock** presents work by 16 leading artists who explore the implications and impact of architecture, urban planning, and their representation in popular media on contemporary art and the conduct of daily life.

**Gridlock** takes its title from traffic-jams that are endemic in large cities around the world; particularly infamous in Auckland and Los Angeles. Gridlocked traffic is a product of the system it disrupts. And the artists in the exhibition also disrupt the architectural grid in different ways.

In the early-20th century the grid folded into the fabric of building and became a controlling principle of modernist architecture, that later folded into art and cinema. This produced a seamless relationship between building, planning, and painting and recto-linearity became a totalising affect of the century. The eponymous examples of this are the buildings of Mies Van der Rohe and the painting of Piet Mondrian,

most famously **Broadway boogie woogie** 1942-1943.

Despite recent 'sculptural' shifts in architecture represented by the work of Frank O. Gehry and Santiago Calatrava the grid remains the dominant organising principle of architecture: think of Sir Norman Foster's world's tallest building currently being constructed in Shanghai. The grid has also reasserted itself in contemporary art particularly in recent work made by artists interested in mapping the social dimension of space, namely its function. For example artists such as Luca Frei, Liam Gillick, and Jorge Pardo who make exhibition display systems or installation that crosses over with gallery furniture – a link can be made here between conceptual minimalism and the clean lines of modernist design. These artists reiterate the grid as much as they reveal it.

The return of the grid as a formal art and architectural principle and metaphor, is reflective of the 'permanence'

of architecture and the inexhaustibility of modernism. The scale of building (especially towers) ensures a memorial imprint and produces a sense of buildings watching over us. In the collective unconscious building is forever (this concept amplified the psychic shock of the destruction of the Twin Towers).

Despite the often overwhelming nature of buildings and cities a number of the **Gridlock** artists reveal their underpinnings in subtle ways.

As the sole venue for this exciting thematic exhibition, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery provides its audience with the opportunity to experience the latest international contemporary art and the diverse ways in which artists are addressing a range of issues related to architecture and urban design that impacts on society at large.

## Public programmes

**Opening event:** OLO  
6.00 - 8.00pm Saturday 21 August & 10.30am - 5.00pm Sunday 22 August

Finnish collaborative-duo OLO produce site-specific sculptures and architectural interventions. At the Govett-Brewster they are constructing a public sauna from found materials (polythene, timber off-cuts, tarpaulin).



Saunas, which are an integral element of the Nordic lifestyle, challenge perceptions of social space when deployed in public in other parts of the world where taboos of nudity exist.

Operating during the opening weekend the visiting audience is invited to use the sauna and participate in a Fluxus style event.

**Winter Forum**  
12.30pm Sunday 22 August  
**The politics of curating**

Join Gallery Director and Forum Chair Gregory Burke, and leading international curators – Ihor Holubizky, Marcel Odenbach, Niklas Östholm, and Britta Schmitz for a discussion of curatorial ethics and responsibilities in relation to the presentation of exhibitions that address politics and potentially controversial issues. The forum

is themed around the presentation of exhibitions that reflect problematic issues. The discussion will focus on the particular problem of contemporary representations of complicated histories in relation to political imperatives.

**Artists' talks**  
2.00pm Sunday 22 August

Artists James Angus, Shaun Gladwell, Jaakko Niemelä, and OLO will discuss their works in the **Gridlock** exhibition.

**World Architecture Day**  
11.00am Saturday 9 October  
**Concept, commerce, and common sense**

To mark World Architecture Day the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery presents a panel discussion in association with the Western Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Architects. Join two of New Zealand's leading architects, and a master builder, as they discuss the battle architects have to integrate high concept design philosophies into the building of essentially commercial spaces and the buckling of conceptual allusions under budget pressures.



catalogue features an essay by exhibition curator Simon Rees as well as an enlightening theoretical overview by a leading architectural historian.

The publication also contains artists' biographies, colour plates and commentaries on the works in the exhibition.

Available in October, the catalogue will be on sale for \$26.95 at the Gallery's Art and Design Shop or email [artanddesign@govettbrewster.com](mailto:artanddesign@govettbrewster.com) to order your copy.

IMAGES

TOP:

DLO

#30 (Copenhagen) 2002

BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT:

JOHAN THURFJELL

**Do you have the shine?**

(digital animation still) 2002

ANDREW MCLEDD

**Untitled** 2004

RAFFAEL WALDNER

**Glattzentrum** 2004

SHAUN GLADWELL

**Kickflipper**

(video still) 2001

ANU PENNANEN

**A monument for the invisible**

(video still) 2003

JAMES ANGUS

**Mountains valleys caves** 2004

COVER IMAGE:

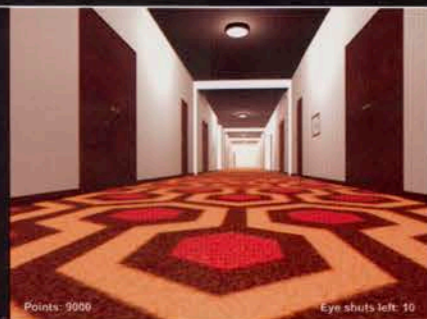
JIM SPEERS

**Outdoor cinema series**

**neon #9** 2003

## Gridlock: The catalogue

This handsome 56-page publication is the sixth in the acclaimed series of Govett-Brewster exhibition catalogues including **Bloom: mutation, toxicity and the sublime** 2004 and **Extended Play: art remixing music** 2003. The



Points: 9906

Eye shuts left: 10



JORGE RUSS

ISELA

KRISTO

HILMA

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Govett-Brewster Art Gallery

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery is a museum that fosters the development and interpretation of contemporary art.



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