

Press Release

6 April 2005

ARTPOINT - 10TH ANNIVERSARY - FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- This year **Artpoint** celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a major new publication, **RE VIEWS: Artists and Public Space** and a busy programme for the Summer of 2005 - www.artpointtrust.org.uk
- **Artpoint** has curated projects with two highly regarded artists for June 2005, **Jem Finer's *The Centre of the Universe*** and **O – Maps**, plus **Michael Pinsky's *Routes***, as part of ***Evolving City***.
- In addition, later in the summer, **Artpoint** will realize another contemporary public art project, ***Gort, Klaatu Barada Nikto*** by **Simon Patterson's** at the **Open University** in Milton Keynes.

RE VIEWS: Artists and Public Space

3 June 2005 – LAUNCH – Oxford University Parks, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1

Re Views is extensively illustrated at 182 pages, and focuses on 10 key projects all accompanied by an essay examining different aspects of Artpoint's practice and wider issues around artists' roles in reflecting and creating public space. Published by Black Dog Publishing, projects featured include work by artists, Thomas Heatherwick, Simon Patterson, Jacqui Poncelet and Alison Turnbull with commentaries from Richard Layzell, Roger Deakin, Siân Ede and Michael Stanley and a Foreword by Sir Christopher Frayling. *Re Views* is available from June 2005 from Black Dog Publishing - www.bdpworld.com at a cost of £19.95, there will also be a set of 10 specially commissioned limited edition prints available from the 10 featured artists through Artpoint.

JEM FINER: *The Centre of the Universe*

4 – 30 June 2005 – Oxford University Parks, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1

Open from dusk till dawn. FREE

A newly commissioned installation, *The Centre of the Universe* by the highly regarded artist Jem Finer will take the form of a large-scale spiral tower supporting a radio dish. The work is the culmination of Jem's 18 month residence at the University of Oxford's Department of Astrophysics. It is both a sculptural object in the landscape and a working radio telescope tuned to 1420 MHz, the frequency used by astrophysicists to chart the structure and vastness of the universe. The work takes its title from the artist's understanding that, regardless as to whether the universe is finite or infinite, it has no central point - combined with the notion that all individuals perceive the universe as existing around them. The installation is, in fact, an observatory, and it is this idea of observation that Jem Finer finds integral to both the practice of the artist and scientist.

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JEM FINER: *O – Maps*

9 – 19 June 2005 - part of the 2015 exhibition at Modern Art Oxford

Jem Finer is also in the process of assembling a collection of maps of the universe and Oxford drawn by people from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines including astrophysicists, school children, art students and Oxfordians. The project explores the extremes of size and scale that exist in the universe.

MICHAEL PINSKY: *Routes*

4 - 18 June 2005 - Oxford Park and Ride bus route

Taking the role of urban planner, activist and researcher, artist Michael Pinsky is best known for his video projects, site specific artworks and interactive installations. For *Routes*, Michael Pinsky has been appointed to create a temporary artwork that will take place on a Park and Ride bus, or bus route, as part of the Oxford 2015 strand of *Evolving City*. The transport system has a rhythm all of its own and the bus routes act as the arteries for the city, bringing thousands of people into the centre, and out again at the end of each day. *Routes* will explore Oxford's Park and Ride community, enlighten and entertain passengers through new cultural experiences and ask people to look anew at the city around them. Artpoint has developed this project in partnership with the Oxford Bus Company and it is funded by Arts & Business.

SIMON PATTERSON: *Gort, klaatu barada nikto*

Chemistry and Planetary Sciences Department, Open University, Milton Keynes

A new public art work by artist Simon Patterson, curated by Artpoint and commissioned by The Open University, for their new Chemistry and Planetary Sciences Department building designed by architects Ridge and Partners. The two departments are engaged in an adventurous project of sending a probe, as part of the NASA Cassini spacecraft, on a seven year, 2 billion mile journey to Saturn's moon, Titan. Patterson draws on Sci-fi movies – “Gort, Klaatu barada nikto” is a line from the 1951 movie, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The new work, a series of aircraft runway lights leading to the entrance of the building is wry and paradoxical, countering the serious work going on inside the building and somewhere out there in space.

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Notes to Editors:-

Artpoint is a creative company working with artists to support new thinking and practice for the built environment and public space across the South East region. Operating as a ‘not for profit’ limited company with charitable status, Artpoint believes that contemporary arts practice has a central role to play in developing our physical, intellectual and social environments. Artpoint's work includes public art commissioning, consultancy, research projects and audience engagement activities.

Evolving City is the biggest cultural celebration ever to take place in Oxfordshire and is a year-long programme showcasing Oxford's vibrant creative life - www.evolvingcity.com. The project is coordinated by **Oxford Inspires**, the cultural development agency for Oxford and Oxfordshire, and funded with lottery money from the Millennium Commission and Arts Council England through the Urban Cultural Programme.