



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 25, 2007

NEWS RELEASE



top: *Circle in the Rain*, 2007
C-print mounted on aluminum,
15 x 28 ½ inches. Courtesy of the artist
and Locks Gallery, Philadelphia.

bottom: *A Planet's Encouragement*, 2007
C-print on aluminum, 44 x 66 ¼ inches.
Courtesy of the artist and Locks Gallery,
Philadelphia.

EILEEN NEFF: BETWEEN US

SEPTEMBER 7–DECEMBER 16, 2007

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST EILEEN NEFF AND CURATORS PATRICK MURPHY AND INGRID SCHAFFNER: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 5PM,
ICA MEMBERS ONLY

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present "Eileen Neff: Between Us." This exhibition of over thirty photographs by the Philadelphia artist Eileen Neff will be on view in the second floor gallery from September 7–December 16, 2007. Focusing on the past ten years, the exhibition traces a fascinating and critical shift from the camera to the computer. Five early works establish the foundations of Neff's photo-based practice in sculpture and painting. A video debuts a new foray into the moving image. This is the second major presentation of Neff's work at ICA. Following its debut at Artists Space in New York, her installation *The Mountain a Bed and a Chair* was presented in 1992 at ICA.

Using the camera, the computer, and the space of the studio, Eileen Neff poetically reconstructs moments experienced outside of it. Clouds move from outdoors to in. Windows appear as apertures onto completely unexpected places. The landscape doubles but does not mirror itself. A blur of motion is bifurcated by one strangely still tree. These arresting images show how unfamiliar the world can be. To cut these moments out of the flow of events and images that daily surround us, Neff uses the camera like scissors. And as the early works in this exhibition demonstrate, her practice is essentially connected to collage. *Cul de Sac* (1996) is literally a cutout: a photograph shaped like an armchair upon which is enthroned a tree. This work also conveys an essential theme in Neff's work: the collapse between interior and exterior spaces and conditions. More recently, the use of digital technology has made the cut-and-paste aspect of Neff's work more seamless and complex. However, she also has a knack for finding images that look constructed. The trees in the 2007 photograph *Summer (The Couple)* were seen as they appear, embracing each other in a field. Humor is a quiet by constant component of Neff's art, in which scale and shape also play important roles. *Slipping Glimpse* (2006) is a narrow one-inch wide photograph that visually references the Abstract Expressionist painter Barnett Newman's famous "zips." The writings of Wallace Stevens, Emily Dickinson, and Henry David Thoreau are some of the other touchstones for this deeply intelligent and beautiful work.

Eileen Neff (b. 1945, Philadelphia, PA) received an MFA in painting from Tyler School of Art, a BFA in Painting from Philadelphia College of Art, and a B.A. in English Literature from Temple University. She has exhibited her photographic work in solo and group exhibitions nationally, P.S. 1 in Long Island City, Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery in Pittsburgh, Artist Space, New York, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among others. She has participated in artist residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire and La Napoule Art Foundation, La Napoule, France.

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*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public, except during
installation, from 12pm to 8pm on
Wednesday through Friday and from 11am
to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students
over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and
free to ICA members, children 12 and
under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays
from 11am to 1pm.

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of
Contemporary Art at the University of
Pennsylvania is a leader in the
presentation and documentation of
contemporary art. Through exhibitions,
commissions, educational programs, and
publications, ICA invites the public to share
in the experience, interpretation and
understanding of the work of established
and emerging artists.

She is the recipient of numerous commissions and awards including fellowships
from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Pew
Fellowships in the Arts. She is currently an adjunct professor in the MFA program in
Painting at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, a Graduate Seminar instructor at
the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and a Senior Critic in the Graduate Fine
Arts Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

This exhibition is organized by Ingrid Schaffner, Senior Curator, and Patrick Murphy, Director,
Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland. It is accompanied by a 64-page catalog with an
introduction by Schaffner, a conversation with the artist and Murphy and an essay by Jeremy
Sigler, a New York-based poet. The catalog is fully illustrated and includes a complete exhibition
history.

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THE OVERSEERS BOARD FOR THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF ICA;
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THIS EXHIBITION WILL TRAVEL TO THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY, DUBLIN, IRELAND IN 2009.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "EILEEN NEFF: BETWEEN US."