

GALERIE LELONG

528 West 26th Street New York, NY 10001
T 212.315.0470 F 212.262.0624
www.galerielelong.com

13 rue de Téhéran 75008 Paris
Rämistrasse 7 8024 Zürich

Rosemary Laing: *leak*

September 6 – October 20, 2012

Opening reception: Thursday, September 6th, 6 to 8 pm

Book signing: Saturday, September 8th, 3 pm

The inverted skeleton of a house appears to have crash-landed into the pastoral landscape in Rosemary Laing's new *leak* series, premiering in the U.S. at Galerie Lelong. Four of the *leak* photographs have never been seen before, while the rest of the series have not been shown in the United States. The *leak* series powerfully depicts how suburbanization threatens the idyllic vistas of the Australian landscape. *Leak* is Laing's fifth solo exhibition at Galerie Lelong and will open to the public on Thursday, September 6th. The artist will be present at the opening.

Throughout the past decade, on drives along the south coast of Australia, Laing has observed small country towns and farmlands fall victim to the socio-economic and environmental pressures of suburban development. For her new project *leak*, Laing chose the Cooma-Monaro District in New South Wales, an area that has been the subject of many Australian landscape paintings and the setting for several novels including *The Twyborn Affair* by Patrick White of which the titles of the *leak* photographs are based. During her research for the project, Laing also watched science-fiction films of aliens or mutants infesting the human race, noting similarities in the way in which man-made suburbia infests and spreads across the natural landscape. The combination of these various influences resulted in the careful construction of a skeleton of an upside down, single-family home set on a privately owned 3,000 acre sheep farm, dating back to the early 1900s. In *Eddie* (2010), the gloomy sky, eerie stillness, and haunting gum trees seem to foreshadow an impending doom around the erected structure. Paradoxically, *Aristide* (2010) depicts a flock of sheep with their herdsman under a beautiful blue sky, bewildering the viewer with the foreign object. The *leak* series culminates in *Stavroura* (2012), the first panoramic wall sized image by Laing, presented on a curved wall in the small gallery. *Stavroura* allows viewers to confront the scene at a disorienting size and vantage point. All three works reference traditional European landscape paintings while disrupting their conventionally harmonious duality between culture and nature.

Laing is known for staging these types of interventions in geographically symbolic locations, and writers have often related her process to cinematic production. She typically works in series, creating thematic bodies of work that are often based on socio-economic, political, and environmental issues effecting Australia, but can also be related to a broader world context. Previous series include *a dozen useless actions for grieving blondes* (2009), *weather* (2006), *one dozen unnatural disasters in the Australian landscape* (2003), *bulletproofglass* (2002), *groundspeed* (2001), and *flight research* (1999-2000). All of these series are illustrated in Laing's new monograph, published by Prestel this spring, which also features an essay by art historian Abigail Solomon-Godeau. Galerie Lelong will host a book signing with the artist on September 8th.

Numerous museums have featured solo exhibitions of Laing's work including the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney; Kunsthallen Brandts Klædefabrik, Odense, Denmark; Domus Artium 2002, Salamanca, Spain; Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, USA; and the National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan. Her work is present in many public collections worldwide including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, USA; and the 21st Century Museum, Kanazawa, Japan. Laing has participated in several international biennials, including the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art (2012), the Biennale of Sydney (2008), Venice Biennale (2007), Busan Biennale (2004), and Istanbul Biennial (1995).

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

Contact: Amanda Salvaggio, 212-315-0470 or Amanda@galerielelong.com.

Forthcoming exhibition: Lin Tianmiao, October 25 – December 8, 2012