

# The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Jeanne Finley and John Muse, *Leatherman in Saybrook*, 2009

## Jeanne Finley and John Muse *Sleeping Under Stars, Living Under Satellites*

January 31 to June 6, 2010

The collaborative team of Jeanne C. Finley and John Muse have based their first major project in the northeast on the sweep of over 200 years of Ridgefield, Connecticut's, history. The exhibition will debut on Sunday, January 31, 2010.

The exhibition, entitled *Sleeping Under Stars, Living Under Satellites*, explores different ways of keeping time and moving through space by presenting the wanderings of legendary historical figures from Ridgefield, Sarah Bishop and the Leatherman. The paths of these figures will be traced by the artists through the use of multi-channel video projection, sculptural elements, and geo-caching, an online, GPS-driven treasure hunt.

Finley and Muse have created three new Ridgefield-centric geo-caching circuits. One is based on the Three Hundredth Anniversary Parade Route, which passes several historic buildings in town; and the other two simulate routes traveled by the historical figures: Bishop, a hermit who lived for over 30 years after the Revolutionary War in a small cave on the east side of West Mountain between North Salem and Ridgefield; and a wandering vagrant who was nick-named the Leatherman because of his 60-pound handmade animal-skin suit. The Leatherman completed a 365-mile clockwise circuit through parts of New York and Connecticut with rigid regularity every 34 days between the years of 1856 and 1889.

Viewers will discover elements of the exhibition both in the Museum's gallery and on routes taken by Bishop, the Leatherman, and the artists—who will place artifacts in local caches to commemorate and repeat the journeys of the historical figures. The project comes into focus in the gallery—a cache included on all of the routes—where there will be a replica of Sarah Bishop's cave as well as an observatory where various video components create visual and sonic rhythms that regulate the relations of the three circuits. The hermit's life is based on changing seasons; the vagrant ticked off the days, year after year, on his industrious regimented route; and the days of contemporary Ridgefield inhabitants are marked by the minutes and seconds of their hand-held devices.

The Aldrich will celebrate the opening of *Jeanne Finley and John Muse: Sleeping Under Stars, Living Under Satellites* on **Sunday, January 31, 2010, from 3 to 5 pm**. FREE on-site parking is available, as is continuous round-trip transportation from the Metro North Katonah Train Station to the Museum. Members and special guests are invited to join the artists for a private preview and short presentation of the new exhibition on **Friday, January 29, from 6 to 8 pm** at *Behind the Scenes*.

The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are *Ridgefield Magazine* and WSHU Public Radio.

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**The Artists:** Since 1988, Jeanne C. Finley and John Muse have worked collaboratively on numerous experimental documentaries and installations. These works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, at festivals and museums, including The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Biennial, San Francisco International Film Festival, Berlin Video Festival, and World Wide Video Festival. In 2001 they received a Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship. Additional awards include a Creative Capital Foundation Grant and an Artists Residency at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

**The Museum:** The Aldrich is one of the few non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States. Founded on Ridgefield's historic Main Street in 1964, the Museum enjoys the curatorial independence of an alternative space while maintaining the registrarial and art-handling standards of a national institution. Exhibitions feature work by emerging and mid-career artists, and education programs help adults and children to connect to today's world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.

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