

## The Archeologists

**An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation  
November 8 – December 13, 2009**

Art has long taken on an active part in the narrating and chronicling of history, both its own history and that of larger, "global" events; much recent work made in the documentary vein (mostly video, film and photography) is part of this historiographic tradition in art. Nowadays, however, the fascination with history has taken on a programmatic shape, that of a true "historiographic turn in art": a steadily growing number of contemporary art practices engage in archiving, chronicling, excavating, re-enacting and history-telling, and the historiographic mode has become both the mandate and tone favored by a growing number of artists of varying ages and backgrounds.

*Archeology* is one particular trope and technique of historiography and history-telling; it has of course long been a powerful metaphor for the various endeavors of the human mind, and has equally long been a source of inspirations for the arts. The truth claims of art regularly borrow from the idiom of archeology: artists excavate, artworks disclose and reveal, works of art are shards, fragments, the lost traces of a whole buried under layers of time. Likewise the archeological ethic of patience and monastic devotion to detail – mirrored in its preferred optic, that of the close-up – approximates the laborious spirit of art. Finally, art and archeology also share a profound understanding of the primacy of materiality in all culture, of "matter" and "stuff"; the archeologist's primary commitment is to earth and dirt, hoping that it will one day yield the truth of time, and the artist's commitment is to his or her material, equally resistant and equally entropic.

These three lines of thought – that of the "haptic" method of close-up viewing, that of laborious, time-consuming scrutiny, and that of a base materialism – casually intersect to define the conceptual core of the current exhibition, which is built around two different conceptions of the archeological: the literal on the one hand (real digging, real dusting off), and the allegorical on the other (retrofitting, recording, historicizing).

Artists: Roy Arden / Boris Belay / Mariana Castillo Deball / Daniel Knorr / Susanne Kriemann / Sophie Nys / Zin Taylor / Els Van den Meersch

### **Exhibition venue**

**Ursula Blickle Foundation**  
Mühlweg 18, D -76703 Kraichtal-UÖ  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687  
[www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Press information**

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, Phone +49 176 23622819  
[presse@ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](mailto:presse@ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Press photos**

are available on our website  
[www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Catalogue**

A catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition

### **Pre-opening viewing**

Please call for an appointment  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

### **Duration of the exhibition**

**November 8 – December 13, 2009**

### **Opening**

**Saturday, November 7, 2009, 7 p.m.**

Welcoming address: Ursula Blickle  
Introduction: Dieter Roelstraete

### **Curator**

Dieter Roelstraete,  
Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerpen

### **Opening hours**

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.  
and by appointment

### **Closing ceremony**

**December, 13, 2009, 4 p.m.**

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber,  
art historian

**We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!**