



## **STRANGER CIRCUMSTANCES**

**7 November – 29 November 2009**

**MASSIMO GUERRERA, PDL, ALANA RILEY, RON TRAN**

Curated by JENNIFER CAMPBELL

OPENING RECEPTION Saturday 7 November, 6-10pm



Crawl Space is pleased to present *Stranger Circumstances*, an exhibition that brings together artists who devise strategies to connect with people they would otherwise never encounter. The artists approach strangers either as collaborators, research subjects or participants in unconventional performances.

*Stranger Circumstances* includes a two-week residency by Montreal-based artist **Massimo Guerrera**, during which time he will meet and collaborate with participants from the Seattle area. The artist, along with the participants, will work on several drawings, sculptures, photographs and performances that will later culminate in what the artist calls a 'living' installation. Guerrera's work explores the social complexities of how people relate to each other through language, meditation, exertion and sharing.

[More about Massimo Guerrera's residency here.](#)

**Alana Riley** places herself and the strangers she solicits into playfully awkward situations and documents the outcome photographically. In her series *Support System*, she asks strangers to lie on top of her, and relinquish their body weight as they see fit. In the series *Surrender*, she piggybacks employees around their workplace, transforming the environment into a more lighthearted context where she literally carries the weight of the employee or business owner.

**Ron Tran** takes a more voyeuristic approach when relating to strangers. Instead of interacting with them directly, he chooses to observe both their language and behaviors from an arm's length away. Both in the video *Dinner with a Stranger* and the outdoor installation he created specifically for *Stranger Circumstances*, Tran draws attention to the subtle interpersonal gestures and communication we have with individuals on a daily basis.

On opening night, **PDL** will perform *Sociology Lab Theater*, a series of interactive street theater pieces that will take place near the gallery. The short performances will challenge innocent bystanders to respond to a variety of spectacles instigated by PDL while a live audience from Crawl Space watches behind the scenes.

#### ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

Massimo Guerrera, born in Rome, lives and works in Montréal. He trained at the Atelier Graff in Montréal and received a B.A. in Fine Arts from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Guerrera has exhibited his work in solo exhibitions at prestigious venues such as Siège Social Temporaire with Parachute Magazine (Paris), the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery at Concordia University (Montreal), Biennale de Montréal, Musée du Québec; Clint Roenisch Gallery, White Columns (New York); the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux (France) and the Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa). In 2001, he won the prestigious \$25,000 Prix Ozias-Leduc from the Fondation Émile-Nelligan and was a finalist for the Sobey Art Award in 2004.

Alana Riley's work has been shown in group exhibitions in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Baltimore and New York. She recently completed a residency and solo exhibition at the Museum of Rimouski in Quebec, a solo exhibition at Musée d'art contemporain de Baie-Saint-Paul and Galerie Vu. She is represented by Joyce Yahouda Gallery.

Ron Tran, a Vancouver-based artist, studied at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and has participated in group and solo exhibitions in Canada including Saidye Bronfman Centre, Helen Pitt Gallery, Artspeak Gallery, Access Artist Run Centre, and Charles H. Scott gallery. Tran has also exhibited in Liu-Haisu Museum Shanghai, China. Tran was selected to be in East International 2007 Norwich England, and completed his two months residency in Sweden at Neon Gallery. Tran is represented by Lawrence Eng Gallery.

Working under the moniker of PDL, made up of Seattle-based Jason Puccinelli, Jed Dunkerley and Greg Lundgren. PDL is responsible for the portable confession booths, the coin drop, offspring at the Olympic Sculpture Park and the Unauthorized Audio Tour at the SAM and Portland Art Museum. Over time the group has grown to include many other artists, most notably, their collaborations with Arne Pihl, Mike Katell and Michael Leavitt.

Crawl Space partnered with local organizations to offer participants the opportunity to collaborate with Massimo Guerrera:

[Alliance Francaise de Seattle](#) is a dynamic educational and cultural nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Puget Sound area. Our mission is to promote the French language, increase awareness of French and francophone cultures, and foster friendly relations between them.

[Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets](#) (PSKS) provides support and services to Seattle area homeless youth and young adults. Our committed efforts are targeted at providing stepping stones to transition youths from the streets to self-sufficiency and productive roles in community. Find out how you can support our community by either volunteering, donating or by increasing awareness of these important issues.

[Seattle Central Community College](#) service-learning program is both a philosophy of education and a learning method. It focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic involvement, combining community service with academic instruction.

This exhibition was made possible in part by the [Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs](#) through the smArt Ventures program.

[Jen Graves' first thoughts on Crawl Space's last opening here](#)

[Daily Serving's highlights by Seth Curcio here](#)

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- **CRAWL SPACE IS CLOSING**

After six years of curating and producing exhibitions, talks and special programs, the individual artists who run Crawl Space Gallery have decided to disband in order to pursue independent interests. ...

**The gallery will be closed for residency and installation between 12 October- 6 November**

ARTIST RESIDENCY 26 OCTOBER- 6 NOVEMBER MASSIMO GUERRERA will meet with several participants over the course of a ten day period to collaborate on works which will culminate in an installation ...

**PARK(ING) DAY outside Crawl Space- this  
Friday, Sept 18th. Gallery open from 10-5pm**

GALLERY WILL BE OPEN 10-5pm MEET AND EAT with the artist from 1-5pm [BBQ in courtyard]

- **Upcoming Events**

Nothing right now! Subscribe to our mailing list to stay up to date!

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