

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Claudia Hart: Empire
April 23 - June 20, 2010
Exhibit opens during the Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District, Friday, April 23
Wood Street Galleries, 601 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Downtown Pittsburgh Cultural District

Empire, by Claudia Hart, employs a four-screen animation of a virtual monument running the "course of empire." This work is largely inspired by a series of paintings made by Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole.

For the exhibition opening on Friday April 23 during the Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District, Hart has created a performance featuring the composer Ella Buckley as an extension of Hart's work. In the performance piece, *Empire* slowly decays and molds as it transits from sunrise to sunset.

The exhibition contains an installation of a cascading architecture including monumental projections of Hart's metamorphosing imagery, computer animations that are sensual but not pornographic within mechanized, clockwork depictions of the natural. Hart's work subverts clichéd dichotomies of woman and nature pitted against a civilized, scientific and masculine world of technology. In *Empire*, Hart stages a romantic rebellion against technocratic and bureaucratic culture.

In her website, Hart describes her work as "contemporary versions of sublime landscape gardens often containing expressive and sensual female bodies meant to interject emotional subjectivity into what is typically the overly-determined Cartesian world of digital design."

About Claudia Hart:

After graduating from New York University with a BA cum laude in art history in 1978, Claudia Hart studied architecture at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and received a MS in 1984.

After receiving an NEA Fellowship in 1989, she shifted her practice to Europe where she spent ten years and received numerous fellowships, including the Kunstfond Bonn, Stiftung Kulturfonds, the Stiftung Luftbrueckendank Grant, the Arts International Foundation Grant, the Kunstlerhaus Bethanian grant and two fellowships from the

American Center in Paris.

In Europe she exhibited widely with galleries and museums. Her work from this time has been collected by the Museum of Modern Art, NY; The Metropolitan Museum, NY; The MIT List Center, Cambridge; The Vera List Center for Art and Politics, New School, New York; The San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Berlin; and the Sammlung Goetz Museum, Munich.

Hart is currently an Assistant Professor in the department of Film Video and New Media at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. For more information about Claudia Hart, visit claudiahart.com

GALLERY DETAILS:

Wood Street Galleries is located at 601 Wood Street above the T-Station in the Downtown Pittsburgh Cultural District

Gallery Hours:

Wednesday & Thursday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free and open to the public

For more information, call 412-471-5605 or visit woodstreetgalleries.org

Wood Street Galleries is a Project of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

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