

# CONICAL

**Marie-Jeanne Hoffner &  
Stephen Garrett**

**After the Goldrush**

Presented by Conical in association with  
Melbourne International Arts Festival

**October 10 – November 7 2009**

*After the Gold Rush* at Conical continues from a collaborative residency by French artist Marie-Jeanne Hoffner and Australian-based Stephen Garrett at the Centre Intermondes, resulting in the exhibition *Gold Rush* at the Espace Art Contemporain, La Rochelle, France, 2009.

The following is an excerpt from the exhibition catalogue *Gold Rush* by French writer Anne-Lou Vicente.

Although separated by thousands of kilometres, Marie-Jeanne Hoffner and Stephen Garrett meet within the shared terrain that has been gradually created by them through exchange and experiments. Laying the foundations of this mutuality has allowed a bridge to be built between their respective practices. This common ground, named by the artists as *RE/DE* (reconstruction/deconstruction), is inaugurated in La Rochelle containing all the promise that comes from a *gold rush*. The exhibition can be seen as a research laboratory—allowing all kinds of structures to be infinitely deconstructed and reconstructed; in short, to continue to dig until one finds and discovers a new form: transforming, moving and constantly evolving. *RE/DE* carries a collaborative challenge for the artists (however impermanent their exhibition may be), aspiring to expand their artistic horizon: the extended zone of contact between their two ways of creating and thinking.

Garrett and Hoffner pay particular attention to the various spaces and places they have journeyed and lived—whether workplace or studio, apartment or house—revealing the trace, shape and structure through transcription and measurement. For instance, the preparation and production of maps and models are placed into their perspective and then created as two and three-dimensional outcomes. These strategies are anchored within an architectural logic, instilling, through the use of different mediums, the displacement of existing sites from other places. Thereby creating a shift in the practice of representation rather than simply a replica. These translation and slippages multiply the errors—and wanderings—while expanding the margins and gaps, guaranteeing the originality of the work and its detachment from reality on which it is first based. Like an island, the work is an extension of reality: separate while remaining, if only symbolically, attached.

For full transcript see [www.conical.org.au/current\\_exhibitions/current](http://www.conical.org.au/current_exhibitions/current) Catalogue also available at Conical

After the Goldrush is supported by the French Embassy in Australia

## Marie-Jeanne Hoffner Biography

Marie Jeanne Hoffner lives and works in Paris and Châteauroux. Since graduating in 1999 from the Art school in Nantes, she continues to develop her art practice alongside curating projects and teaching. She has undertaken several residencies in Australia including Monash University of Art & Design in Melbourne, Sydney College of the Arts, and Port Arthur Residency run by Arts Tasmania. In France, her residencies include Synagogue de Delme Art centre, La Box, school of art in Bourges, Cité Internationale des arts in Paris and also several projects in Argentina and the U.K. Her work has been shown in Linden art Centre, and CCP in Melbourne, Cast in Hobart and most recently in Point Ephémère and Anne + Art Projects in Paris.

[www.mariejeannehoffner.org](http://www.mariejeannehoffner.org)

## Stephen Garrett Biography

Stephen is a Melbourne based artist whose practice is focused on sculpture and installation. He has held solo exhibitions at The Centre for Contemporary Art Hanoi, The Newcastle Region Art Gallery and Monash University. He has been curated into a number of group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including Next Wave Festival, Hatched (PICA), and Melbourne Art Fair. He completed his PhD at Monash University in 2009, where he is also a sessional lecturer in Art and Design.

This is the second collaboration between Stephen and Marie-Jeanne. Their first collaboration *Gold Rush* was held at the Espace Art Contemporain, after being artists in residence at the Centre Intermonde, La Rochelle France 2009. For the Melbourne International Art Festival they continue their collaborative practice working directly within Conical's gallery for *After The Gold Rush*.