

David Kelley

List of Works 2005-2008

2008

Gold Standard

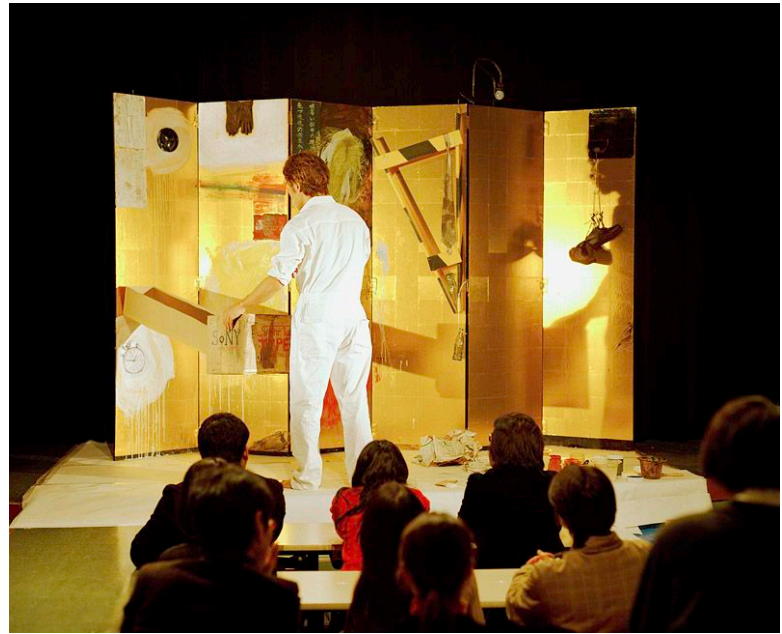
Kelley's video installation re-stages Robert

1964 Tokyo performance

where he made his final Combine painting – Gold Standard.

In Kelley's installation of the same name, archival television footage of anti-American student protests by the Zenkyoto activists are combined with cinematic re-stagings of Rauschenberg's original performance with local actors. Kelley's re-staging of real and imagined situations in the actual sites where they are presumed to have taken place

attempts to expose the inextricable link between realism and fantasy in post-colonial memories of neo-avant-garde aesthetics and anti-AMPO demonstrations. In the end, Gold Standard unfolds as an homage to an under-exposed moment in the history of American-Japanese post-war relations.



2007

Flotsam Jetsam

is a video installation that records the fabricating of a submarine, its launch below the dam, followed by the submarine's progress along the river, through the locks, and above to the reservoir. Along the journey, members of a local Chinese - Opera group, and



several professional film actors from Shanghai stage various performances. Private dreams are recounted during a psychotherapy session in a swimming pool, a theatrical play is performed in a working ship factory, and actors' concerns about the process and purpose of making the video are voiced. The performances and the theatrical submarine become a protest of sorts. This project is inspired from a broad collection of sources including: Chairman Mao's own dreams of building the dam and his many swims in the Yangtze, Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, contemporary news' exposure of China's economic development, and popular imaginaries of Asia's *modernization*.

Embankment

is a video installation that moves along the newly impacted towns of the 3 Gorges Dam reservoir in China. Fishermen, hydrobiologists, and local teens discuss their



impressions of the contemporary landscape and environment. *Cinema vérité* footage is blended with staged performances self-consciously addressing the structure of making a film.

2006

Three Reading

uses the concept of the "dramatic reading" as a structure with which actors improvise. A "military acting coach" trains an "extra" actor in preparation for his film role as a soldier. All the while they discuss the relationship that architecture and space have to identity and culture. The training becomes a dance between the two actors unsuccessfully performing military identities. Inter-cut with the rehearsal is a reading by an actress of an intimate script about a sexual encounter her character has



The training becomes a dance between the two actors unsuccessfully performing military identities. Inter-cut with the rehearsal is a reading by an actress of an intimate script about a sexual encounter her character has

had. The text conflates sexual intercourse with the mechanics of photography. The video's status of being either a document of performance, or the performance itself, is never determined. The text and the performances never fit.

2005

Paradox

comprises a series of performances that take place in post-industrial communities of Colorado that were significant contributors of Uranium for the atomic bombs detonated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The town of Paradox was completely dismantled by an environmental clean-up. The video installation Paradox regards the physical site as an erased or invisible 'sister city' to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

