



For Immediate Release:

Sculpture Garden: "Yurt City" installation by: **Sheila Ross & Laura Ten Eyck**

Special artwork by guests: **Todd Knopke, Ted McGurn & Derrick Wilson**

Dates: June 24- August 27, 2006

Opening Reception: Friday, June 23, 7-10pm

NEW! Hours: Fri. 3-8, Sat. & Sun. 12-6pm or by appt.

Contact: **Dam, Stuhltrager Gallery**
38 Marcy Ave. Brooklyn. NY 11211
718-387-9818

NEW! Info@damstuhltrager.com
www.damstuhltrager.com

Directions: L to Lorimer. Exit near token booth.
Metropolitan under BQE.
Left on Marcy. Distance from train: 3 bl
(Corner of Marcy Avenue and Hope Street)



Hot summer nights under stars. Pitch your tent under the new condo construction. Dam Stuhltrager's Sculpture Garden fills with various prefabricated tents and modified yurts. Sheila Ross and Ten Eyck create a unique "tent city" for fellow artists to inhabit and modify. Functional, fantastical and vagrantly political, "Yurt City" is both a metaphor and response to the changing landscape of Williamsburg.

In form, a *yurt* resembles the circular domed tents made of skins or felt stretched over a collapsible lattice framework and are reminiscent of the nomadic peoples of Central Asia. A far distance in structure from a New York *condo*, the yurts question the nature of sophisticated living in the shade of two towering live/work buildings (65 and 63 Hope Street) where over fifty artists (including the backbone of the Brooklyn Live/Work Coalition) were displaced within the last month. The residents and their artistically converted raw spaces are to be replaced by luxury lofts after a long battle that stemmed all the way to Albany. In "Yurt City" viewers enter to find an interior space transformed with elaborately designed panels and scrims- designs of which have been informed by a hybrid of 20th century abstraction and eastern art and architectural histories, including Ottoman miniature and architectural traditions. In the adjacent luxury condo buildings, decades of artists' handywork converting raw space into homes, is gutted and removed.

Inspired by tent cities or Gecekondu, a the Turkish term for stealth overnight architectural squatter inventions, "Yurt City" also remarks on the collaborative spirit that is losing ground due to the highly competitive real estate market of NYC. Installation co-creator, Laura Ten Eyck, has invited guest artists to respond to this configuration of tents, altering or adding to the already existing structures.

Canadian born artist **Sheila Ross** has been living in New York for 10 years. A recent participant of Aljira's Emerge program and a recipient of an Ontario Arts Council grant, Ross has exhibited in Williamsburg for over five years. Recent exhibitions include Dam Stuhltrager Gallery and Holland Tunnel in Brooklyn, as well as Aljira and Workspace.

Canadian born artist **Laura Ten Eyck** has exhibited her work in numerous group exhibitions in Canada and the US including Looking In organized by LMCC, Mercer Union, in Toronto and Carriage House, Islip Art Museum. She has been the recipient of several Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council grants.

* For more information: see "Stolen Time" press release available at www.damstuhltrager.com.