

Atlantis

12th November – 6th December 2008, Private View 11th November
29 Thurloe Place, South Kensington, London, SW7 2HQ



Arts Co and Pia Getty are pleased to present *Atlantis*, an exhibition by artist Gayle Chong Kwan, that questions notions of waste, climate change and how this fits into our planning of cities and communal living.

Atlantis is an enormous mythical landscape, a city created and carved out of semi-opaque used plastic food packaging, collected from people who live in London and covering the entire exhibition space. This new work is based on master-planning projects, developments in tourism, regeneration and urban planning.

The architecture of *Atlantis* is inspired by ideas of the lost city, whose beauty was unequalled but which vanished in a day. First described by Plato in around 360 BC, Atlantis was catastrophically buried under the sea, and an earthquake was unleashed onto the island, triggering the flood. Often treated as a literary device, Atlantis entered into the popular imagination in the 1880's. Expeditions continue to search in various sites for the remains of Atlantis.

Mythologised for its abundance of beautiful temples, embellished palaces, harbours and luscious vegetation, the Atlantis of this exhibition has been carved out of plastic food containers, whose discarded remains may be found at the bottom of many of our rivers and seas, forming their own kinds of horrific waste cities or constructions themselves. With premonitions of our rising water levels, questions surround whether we are creating or living in the Atlantis of the future.



The *Atlantis* installation will be accompanied by large-scale photographs on the surrounding walls exploring this enchanting and uncanny underwater city of waste plastic.

Atlantis follows the 2007 exhibition presented by Arts Co and Pia Getty, *Die Green Live Pretty?*, a catalogue of which is available in pdf format through Arts Co.

A graduate of Central Saint Martins, Gayle Chong Kwan has been involved in exhibitions both in the UK and internationally and last year unveiled her epic installation for London Underground, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. Chong Kwan's work is in various collections including Arts Council England and The Government Art Fund.

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'*Atlantis*' is generously supported by Brompton Estates
The Brompton Design District, initiated by Brompton Estates and local organisations, began last year to increase the presence of new design in an area renowned for its important design shops as well as its historic links with design and education since the founding of the Victoria and Albert Museum and Royal College of Art 150 years ago.

www.bromptondesigndistrict.com Please contact Anna Stewart for more information on 020 7761 6420 astewart@ske.org

***Atlantis* Grand Tour**

Atlantis is part of 'The Grand Tour', a programme of new work by Gayle Chong Kwan, also presented at mac Birmingham, Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto Biella Italy, and Artsway Hampshire. Supported by Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester and funded by Arts Council England.

'The Grand Tour' will be accompanied by a website and publication.

Previous exhibition:

'Veduta Romantica' and 'Cockaigne'

Mac, Birmingham

20 November 2007 – 6 January 2008

Future exhibitions are scheduled for:

Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy

ArtSway, Hampshire

Through until Summer 2009.

