

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Regen Projects and Regen Projects II
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DOUG AITKEN

September 12 – October 17, 2009
Opening Reception: Saturday, September 12, 6 – 9 pm
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

Regen Projects is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by Los Angeles artist **Doug Aitken**. This exhibition will present a series of new text-based light boxes and will feature the west coast debut of the film *migration*. **Aitken** explores the themes of temporality, space, memory, movement, and landscape in his work. History and themes of both the past and present are interwoven and reconfigured. His work deconstructs the connection between idea and iconography allowing each to reinvent itself.

Doug Aitken's new light boxes combine image and text in a collision that creates a rupture in which alternate connections are presented. The work *now* contains photographic collage that references **Aitken's** photographic oeuvre and aesthetic. *new horizon*, a star shaped light box, depicts a glowing skyline, dotted with the night lights of a Los Angeles landscape. Experimenting with font, borrowed images, and his own photographs, the light boxes will be presented in the darkened gallery, glowing and playing off of one another. The disjunction of word, image, and light in these works also moves toward a cinematic whole, creating panoramic landscapes through text.

Presented alongside the light boxes will be **Aitken's** first large scale public installation in Los Angeles, *migration*. The film, the first installment in a three-part trilogy entitled *empire*, debuted at the 2008 Carnegie International. This hallucinatory epic depicts the movements of migratory animals as they pass through vacant and deserted hotel and motel rooms, delineating a nomadic passage across America from east to west. Fittingly making its first appearance on the west coast, this large-scale cinematic installation will be presented to the public on Santa Monica Boulevard projected onto the courtyard of Regen Projects II; visible only at night from sunset to sunrise. In addition to the nighttime public presentation, *migration* will also be exhibited at the 633 North Almont Drive space on an indoor billboard accompanied by its original score.

Settlers who met the untamed wilderness to forge new ways of life defined westward expansion. **Aitken's** migratory landscape in *migration* is the opposite; it is a landscape completely devoid of human presence. His non-linear narrative presents a series of different sequences in which the animals and their actions are unique while the rooms and their components are indistinguishable. Hotels such as these offer a sense of both security and isolation and while some animals adapt to these surroundings, others seem conspicuously strange. Rarely do we get to examine these creatures so closely. Their movements and presence make the viewer acutely aware of scale, calling into question various relationships; the most apparent of which is the relationship of the natural and the man-made. In this encounter between the urban and the indigenous the viewer gets a sense of both displacement and habituation. As one critic describes:

“One by one, at different hotels, the animals behave as they behave, sniffing the air, twitching their noses to orient themselves in the desolate human habitat. Imbued with **Aitken's** usual intimations of planetary solitude, his sense of spatial dislocation, and gorgeous formalized perception, these images...have the quality not so much of a nonlinear narrative as of a mirage.”
(Kim Levin, *Artnews*, January 2009, p. 110.)

Aitken's work has been exhibited extensively at museums and galleries worldwide, including his 2007 exhibition “*sleepwalkers*,” a large-scale outdoor installation at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He has had numerous solo exhibitions including shows at the Serpentine Gallery, the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, the Kunsthau Bregenz and the Kunsthalle Zurich. **Aitken** was awarded the international prize at the Venice Biennale in 1999 and was included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial.

An opening reception for **Doug Aitken** will take place on Saturday, September 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. For further information please contact Jennifer Loh, Heather Harmon, or Brad Hudson at (310) 276-5424.