MY SPACE, YOUR SPACE

walsh GALLERY

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 25, 2006

opening reception: JANUARY 20, 5 - 9pm

SHEBA CHHACHHI
GAO BROTHERS
WANG SHUGANG
RODNEY SWANSTROM
WANG WEI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chicago, IL - **"My Space, Your Space": Grand Scale Architectural Installations and Photography** explores how current ideas of architecture interface with questions of urbanity. Since these are universal concerns, the large scale installations and corresponding photography have been created by six artists from not only China and India, but Chicago as well. The opening will be Friday, January 20th, from 5 to 9 pm. All of the artists will be present for the opening reception

Wang Wei has created a giant bird cage/trap that can be walked into. It is actually the same size as his apartment he lived in in Beijing. The bird cage is made of wood and scaffolding.

The Gao Brothers will have six photos called "Sense of Space" on the walls surrounding the bird cage construction. This series shows the brothers often naked and in cramped stacked cubicles. Sometimes there are women in the cubicles as well. As the photographers have explained: "Our series is widely misread as having homoerotic content. In fact we are trying to explor human relations…the cramped circumstances and lack of privacy and freedom in contemporary life, as well as barriers to personal and shared experience."

Wang Shugang will have on view a series of sheer tents with mini drama assemblages inside. Each tent is its own microcosm of an urban existence in China complete with a glowing lightbulb as the sun. These internal constructions range from dead animals on Astroturf to computer circuit boards that support mini nude men and pregnant women. Another assemblage shows two overturned cars with corresponding auto routes that have a beginning but no ending.

Sheba Chhachhi, a New Delhi-based artist, will be showing a large floor-based installation. Aluminum boxes that are reminiscent of high rise buildings are arranged in four "arms" resembling an urban mandala. The top of each box has a warm glow which shows an image of one of the five senses. Sheba's installation, called "Neelkanth: Poison/nectar" is inspired by an Indian myth. In this story, the gods and the demons, who usually are enemies join forces to gain the nectar of immortality. This is catastrophic, and results in the creation of a "heaving mass of black poison, called the poison of time." This pollution threatens to destroy the entire cosmos. Luckily for mankind, the god Shiva "out of compassion for the world" swallows the poison, which turns him blue. In the center of the installation there is a video projection of a blue throat, both human and archetypal, struggling to ingest and transform waste.

Rodney Swanstrom will create a multi-story sensory environment that explores the architecture of transport. The artist believes that as we travel, we find ourselves in borrowed dwellings. In Rodney's simulated dwelling, viewers will be able to "put a holding pattern on their own reality so they can be suspended in time and space." This experience begins as you enter his installation via a jetway ramp. You will then be inside a technicolored chamber with projections of light and color. You can choose to enter a pod and have a rest on a chaise for 3 people. Above you will be projections of moving images of space above the stratosphere, with a mélange of aromatherapy and music. Rodney hopes to help us "loose ourselves in order to transfer to the next step - level."

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top — Wang Wei, *Trap.* installation at Platform China, Beijing, 2005

middle — Gao Brothers, *Sense of Space: Prayer,* photograph, 39" x 31.5", 2000

bottom — Wang Shugang, *Your Life, Our Labyrinth,* installation at Convergence: Beijing Off Biennial, 2005

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