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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Creative Cartographies **September 26, 2008 – January 9, 2009**

BROOKLYN, NY - (August 25, 2008) Influenced by the organization inherent in cartography, the twelve Brooklyn-based artists in BAC Gallery's latest exhibition, *Creative Cartographies*, present viewpoints both personal and political, mapping their own thoughts, journeys, and observations. Collectively, the artists show that structure and expression are not mutually exclusive and utilize a variety of materials to create imagined and real geographies. Maps traditionally suggest stability and a sense of purpose; they originally served to chart new territories and make the unknown less intimidating. In the age of Google maps and GPS, art inspired by maps continues to aid the viewer in navigating unfamiliar territory, but it also veers from the scientific and factual to the creative and subjective.

OPENING RECEPTION

September 26, 6-8pm

Special hours for the DUMBO Art under the Bridge Festival: September 27, 1- 4pm

Caitlin Masley, Lucas Monaco, and Katherine Gressel depict architectural maps in their work, presenting a subtle critique of contemporary urban areas and suburban sprawl. Using ink and silver on paper, Masley represents housing projects pared down to their essential geometry. Like Masley, Monaco uses ink on paper, in this case to depict the sprawl of suburban development. Gressel's *Takeoff* (2008), a collage view from out an airplane window, is also a commentary on the pervasiveness of suburbia.

Ben Pinder, Rebecca Riley, and Gina Dawson use actual maps as the basis for their social critique. Pinder's watercolor map, *City State of America and Surrounding Lands* (2008), pokes fun at the United States' view of itself as a peaceful country surrounded by chaos and terror. Riley's *Baghdad* (2007) uses a map of Baghdad as the basis for a painting, illustrating the range of various missiles as well as the locations of U.S. air bases. Dawson's recreation of a Hollywood celebrity map took over a year to hand stitch. By its completion, the map was inaccurate, emphasizing the transience of celebrity and its ultimate irrelevance.

Rachelle Cohen and Jie Qi interpret data in their works to create abstract maps. Cohen's *A New Eden?* (2008) contains a map of all the "greenest countries" according to Reader's Digest, combined to form an abstract utopian land. Jie Qi's *Where'd You Get Those Blue Eyes* (2008) literally maps the origin of blue eyes, showing the sequence of the gene carrying blue eyes in a spiral form.

Natalia Szostak, Samantha Fox, and Katarina Jerinic delve into the personal, mapping memory and community. Szostak's *Place Conundrum* (2008) is composed of photographs stitched together of the four places the artist has lived. Fox's photographic

series documents the contemporary experience of visiting the site of Auschwitz. **Meirav Leshem's** aerial photographs of lakes in northern California show the inherent map-like structures that emerge from natural formations.

FIRST THURSDAY PROGRAMMING

BAC Gallery participates in DUMBO 1st Thursday. Come down the first Thursday of every month for special programming and extended gallery hours!



Thursday, October 2, 6pm

Curatorial Talk with Jeanne Gerrity

Thursday, November 6, 6pm

Slide Show and Talk with guest artist Caleb Smith

Thursday, December 4, 6pm

Film/Video Screening

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Jeanne Gerrity lives and works in Brooklyn. She is the Programs Manager at Smack Mellon, as well as an independent curator and critic. She was a co-curator for *Salad Days* at Artists Space in New York this summer and has curated shows at Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Redhead Gallery and the Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University. She is currently organizing exhibitions for Rotunda Gallery and the ISE Foundation. Jeanne has served on panels at LMCC, Dieu Donn , Louisiana Artworks, and Pocket Utopia. She received her BA from Brown University and her MA in Modern Art and Curatorial Studies from Columbia University.

ABOUT BAC GALLERY

BAC Gallery (111 Front Street, Suite 218) is located in the heart of the vibrant DUMBO arts district and offers artists an opportunity to show their art in an environment frequented by a host of arts enthusiasts and professionals – from collectors, artists and administrators to gallerists and community organizers. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 11am-5pm. All of the artists included in this exhibition are members of BAC's Online *Registry of Brooklyn Artists*. Contact Gallery Coordinator Courtney J. Wendroff @ 718-625-0080 for more information.

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Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), an arts and services organization founded in 1966, is the umbrella for Brooklyn's range of cultural groups and individual artists working in the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. BAC helps Brooklyn's artist population—from the experimental to those preserving and evolving traditions of cultural heritage—create and present their work. BAC ensures that thousands of people throughout Brooklyn have access to a variety of free arts programming each year. Our programs are essential to the livelihoods of artists, creative professionals, and arts organizations across the borough.

BAC programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council and its Brooklyn Delegation. Beer for the opening reception is provided by Kelso of Brooklyn.

