

Historical Reconstruction: Balloon Bridge

From April 21, 2007 through April 22, 2007, San Francisco based artist David Yun will be exhibiting his project *Historical Reconstruction: Balloon Bridge* at the Warm Water Cove, just east of 24th Street and Illinois in the Dogpatch area. David Yun is part of the Alternative Contexts collective and an MFA student at the San Francisco Art Institute in the Film department.



fig. 1. 1862 photo of what would now be Illinois St. and 19th by Eadward Muybridge.



fig. 2. The Long Bridge, completed in 1867, was the first transportation corridor built on the east side. Upon the bridge's completion, horse car lines operated by the Potrero and Bayview Railroad connected Downtown San Francisco with Potrero Point.

(Images and information from "The Story of the Dogpatch," www.pier70sf.org/dogpatch/)

Historical Reconstruction: Balloon Bridge is a project that seeks to recall the forgotten history of the Dogpatch neighborhood. Once a series of rocky bluffs and bay inlets separated from the city by Mission Bay, the neighborhood has seen tremendous changes in its geographical, residential, and economic makeup. By the late 1860s this area had developed into the city's most dense and important center for heavy industry, employing thousands of workers. To accommodate this, San Francisco's first major transportation artery, the Long Bridge, was constructed in 1867. This wooden causeway connected present-day Bayview-Hunter's Point to Downtown and closely mirrors the route serviced by the newly constructed Third Street Light Rail. After World War II, the Dogpatch neighborhood, and the Central Waterfront in general, began a slow, but steady decline, the ruins of which you can still see today along the bayfront.

Much of this history has been forgotten—a necessary casualty of the always-shifting narrative of progress. By reconstructing a portion of the Long Bridge at Warm Water Cove, the project attempts to unearth and re-contextualize the history of the neighborhood. Not only is the reconstructed bridge recalling this past, but just as importantly, it serves as a reminder of the constantly changing fortunes of urban neighborhoods as industry and people migrate. Recreating the bridge out of balloons necessarily means that the structure will eventually and inevitably deteriorate over the course of the two days, thus evoking the transient nature of historical memory.

About David Yun

David Yun is a first year MFA student at San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI). In his childhood, he grew up in Livonia, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit that holds the title as "The Whitest Large City in the United States." Yun's work spans a variety of mediums including narrative and experimental film/video, photography, and installation. His work often involves the unearthing of forgotten historical events as they relate to our own personal, familial, and communal memory and can be viewed by visiting www.davidyun.com.

About the Alternative Contexts Collective

Alternatives Contexts aims to investigate public sites. It questions the role of the artist in a social context and the possibilities inherent within it to produce work. These sites are bound to history, memory, function and transition. From the discreet intervention to collaboration, the artists' interests vary from the activist to the activation of social space to research. For additional information or inquiries please visit www.alternativecontexts.com.