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## **The Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon Launches New Season with “29 Chains to the Moon: Artists’ Schemes for a Fantastic Future” Curated by Andrea Grover**

PITTSBURGH— The Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University starts their new season with “29 Chains to the Moon: Artists’ Schemes for a Fantastic Future,” an exhibition that runs from Aug. 28 through Dec. 6, 2009. “29 Chains to the Moon” features artists who present radically optimistic proposals from seasteads and tree habitats to gift economies in order to envision a better future for humanity.

Andrea Grover, the exhibit’s guest curator, said, “The artists in this exhibit counter doom-laden global forecasts with future scenarios in which civilization gets more civilized. While having the appearance of sci-fi utopias, these proposals for seasteads, tree habitats and alternative economies are more than fantasy – they are based on technology that already exists.”

The exhibit features projects by Open\_Sailing, Stephanie Smith and Mitchell Joachim/Terreform ONE. A special Reading Room at the gallery will highlight materials provided by The Buckminster Fuller Institute, Carnegie Mellon University Art Professor and Space Artist Lowry Burgess, International Space University, The Seasteading Institute and others.

“29 Chains to the Moon” is a reference to visionary inventor R. Buckminster Fuller’s first book “Nine Chains to the Moon,” his radical proposal for improving the quality of life for all humankind via progressive design and maximization of the world’s finite resources. The book’s title was a metaphor for cooperation; if all humans stood on each other’s shoulders, nine chains to the moon could be completed. Today, the population of the planet has increased three-fold (making 29 chains to the moon the new metaphor), and the successful distribution of food, shelter and energy to over 9 billion people by 2050 will require some fantastic schemes.

A Gallery Tour with the curator will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, followed by the exhibition reception, “2009: A Taste Odyssey,” from 6 to 8 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. Special events related to the exhibition include the live contest, “Visionary Ideas (for This World or Another)” organized by Jon Rubin and Dawn Weleski, from 9 to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3 at The

Waffle Shop, 124 S. Highland Ave.

For more information, additional events, high-resolution images available for download and artist biographies visit [www.cmu.edu/millergallery/exhibitions/29chainstothemoon](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery/exhibitions/29chainstothemoon).

## ABOUT THE CURATOR AND ARTISTS

**Andrea Grover** is an independent curator, artist and writer. In 1998, she founded Aurora Picture Show, a well recognized center for filmic art, which began in her living room as “the world’s most public home theater.”

[www.andreagrover.com](http://www.andreagrover.com)

**Open\_Sailing** is a multi-disciplinary international team led by Cesar Harada and Hiromi Ozaki that is designing a living city at sea, composed of multiple dwellings and ocean farming modules. Open\_Sailing was awarded the 2009 Prix Ars Electronica in “THE NEXT IDEA” category.

[www.opensailing.net](http://www.opensailing.net)

**Stephanie Smith** creates contemporary online and neighborhood-based communes that encourage the non-monetary exchange of resources. Whitney Museum identified Smith as the designer/entrepreneur most actively taking the ideas of Buckminster Fuller into the 21st century.

[www.stephaniesmithsofar.wordpress.com](http://www.stephaniesmithsofar.wordpress.com)

**Mitchell Joachim** is a Co-Founder of **Terreform ONE**, a non-profit philanthropic design collaborative that integrates ecological principles in the urban environment. Joachim was selected by *Wired* magazine for "The 2008 Smart List: 15 People the Next President Should Listen To."

[www.archinode.com](http://www.archinode.com)

[www.terreform.org](http://www.terreform.org)

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**Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University** supports the creation, understanding and growth of contemporary art through exhibitions, projects, lectures, events and publications. The gallery aspires to engage diverse audiences and to create and strengthen communities through art and ideas. The Miller Gallery is the contemporary art gallery of Carnegie Mellon University and is a unit of the College of Fine Arts. It is located in the Purnell Center for the Arts on Carnegie Mellon campus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **The Miller Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12-6 p.m. Open to the public. Admission is free.** [www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery)

**Carnegie Mellon** is a private research university with a distinctive mix of programs in engineering, computer science, robotics, business, public policy, fine arts and the humanities. More than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students receive an education characterized by its focus on creating and implementing solutions for real problems, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation. A small student-to-faculty ratio provides an opportunity for close interaction between students and professors. While technology is pervasive on its 144-acre Pittsburgh campus, Carnegie Mellon is also distinctive among leading research universities for the world-renowned programs in its College of Fine Arts. A global university, Carnegie Mellon has campuses in Silicon Valley, Calif., and Qatar, and programs in Asia, Australia and Europe. For more, see [www.cmu.edu](http://www.cmu.edu).