

Press release draft
“Void” with Aeneas Wilder and co-curator Kate Goodwin
May 3 – 2 June

“Void” is a site-specific installation in a construction site: Aeneas Wilder will make a construction that will be supported by, and ultimately destroyed by, the building work. “Void” is an exploration of the forces that create and threaten to destroy the work.

Aeneas Wilder works internationally; his most recent UK exhibition was at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in November 2011. In his best known works, he precariously balances small pieces of wood to create free-standing, large-scale, complex structures. At the end of the exhibitions, he ceremoniously knocks them down, and with a clatter the works are destroyed in seconds. For “Void”, he will create an installation in a former Victorian warehouse undergoing extensive reconstruction, with a new grid work of steel columns and beams holding the building up. Hovering above the ground and spanning almost 7m, Wilder's new work will consist of hundreds of pieces of wood wedged between two of the columns. This time, he will not destroy his work, but allow the installation to collapse of its own accord.

The installation, with the builders working around it, will be projected via live webcam into the gallery's space, about a mile away, and be visible from the street. The gallery will also publish pictorial and text “essays” exploring some of the forces, both physical and metaphysical, that create, threaten to destroy, and effectively are integral to the work. Some of these include gravity versus structure, tension versus compression, fragility versus permanence, play versus work, destruction versus completion, physical versus virtual. Like Wilder's pieces of wood being built up, these pieces of ideas will be published as they are “built”.

Kate Goodwin will be co-curating the exhibition. Kate Goodwin is the Drue Heinz Curator for Architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts, having initially trained as an architect in Sydney. She is author of the *Dandelion: The Making of the UK Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo 2010*. In particular, Goodwin will be documenting the creation of “Void”, the factors of its provocation, existence and duration.

We are grateful to Jerram Falkus for sponsoring the materials, and to Edward Cullinan Architects for the use of their building.

“Void”
3 May – 2 June, 2012
Opening: Thu 3 May, 6 – 9 pm
Wed – Sat, 1 – 6 pm

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