

For Immediate Release

October 31, 2006

Domestic Wilderness Channel
November 20, 2006 – January 31, 2007

SARATOGA, Calif. – Montalvo Arts Center opens a window to the unseen corners of domestic landscapes with *Domestic Wilderness Channel*, a temporary, site-specific installation by artist Shona Kitchen. *Domestic Wilderness Channel* utilizes the sophisticated surveillance technology that pervades urban environments and mainstream culture, and transposes it onto an idyllic domestic environment, exposing modern notions of control in our political, daily and recreational life. Kitchen, a fellow at the Lucas Artists Programs, turns this technology onto the natural micro-world that exists in the hidden nooks and manicured lawns of Montalvo. *Domestic Wilderness Channel* will be on view at Project Space at Montalvo, and will broadcast outside Camera 12 Cinemas in downtown San Jose, from November 20, 2006 – January 31, 2007.

In cities around the world, surveillance technology is used on a larger scale to control traffic, to monitor the movement of individuals and products, and to provide entertainment to massive audiences in the form of reality television. By placing surveillance cameras, projection screens, and radio frequency identification (RFID) tagging equipment in the intimate environment of one's home, *Domestic Wilderness Channel* provides visitors the opportunity to experience this technology for themselves, making familiar what is present in the world around them but rarely understood.

Kitchen, with special assistance from Olga Reid, set up recording "gazebos" around her studio at Montalvo in which she placed bait for insects and small animals along with cameras to record the activity that ensues once the wildlife converge in these locations. The term gazebo is meant to be read ironically since it is usually used to evoke sites of pastoral relaxation, rather than voyeurism and surveillance of "gruesome" natural encounters. "Unbeknownst to us," the artist notes, "there is a riot of activity that occurs overnight as we sleep, unaware, in our comfortable homes." Recorded images of this activity will be converted into the multi-screen *Domestic Wilderness Channel* for visitors voyeuristically watch what took place during the night.

An internationally renowned multidisciplinary artist/designer, Kitchen's work explores the intersections between the physical and virtual and the ways in which they manifest themselves as new spatial experiences. She has taught at the Center for Advanced Visualization and Interaction (CAVI) at Aarhus University in Denmark, and is currently on sabbatical as a design tutor at the Royal College of Art, London, having taught there since 2002. Prior to this, she ran Kitchen Rogers Design, a London-based design partnership with Ab Rogers. Kitchen graduated from Architecture and Interiors at the Royal College of Art, London, in 1997.

Kitchen and longtime collaborator Ben Hooker recently completed *Datanature*, a multi-site electronic installation commissioned by the San Jose Public Art Program for ZeroOne San Jose: A Global Festival of Art of the Edge & The Thirteenth International Symposium of Electronic Art (ISEA 2006). *Domestic Wilderness Channel* is a project which has been commissioned as a

result of *Datanature*.

Domestic Wilderness Channel will broadcast in Project Space at Montalvo, alongside gazebo displays and documentation of the project. Visitors will also be able to visit Kitchen's studio at the Lucas Artists Programs during gallery hours to see the site where documentation occurred and investigate the landscape using RFID scanners. *Domestic Wilderness Channel* will also broadcast on a large format screen in the storefront of Camera 12 Cinemas in downtown San Jose. The public may meet the artist and preview her work at an Open House on Sunday, November 19 from 2-4 PM at the Lucas Artists Programs at Montalvo. An opening reception for Montalvo members will be held that evening from 4-6 PM.

Project Space offers interactive exhibitions of contemporary art and culture that enrich, educate and inspire. Project Space hours are 1-4 PM, Wednesday through Friday, and 10 AM – 4 PM, Saturday and Sunday. For more information call (408) 961-5800.

Domestic Wilderness Channel is made possible in part through the support of Edward Rooks and Janice Edgerly-Rooks, Camera 12 Cinemas and Phantom Galleries.

Montalvo's Visual Arts Program is supported by generous gifts and grants from Jo and Barry Ariko, Jan and Neal Dempsey, Sally and Don Lucas, Penny and Greg Reyes, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the members of Montalvo Arts Center.

About Montalvo Arts Center

Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging meaningful connections between art, artists and the communities it serves through creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. Located in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center occupies a Mediterranean-style villa on 175 stunning acres, which Senator James Phelan left to the people of California for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture. In January 2005, the organization changed its name from "Montalvo" to "Montalvo Arts Center" to commemorate its 75th year as an arts center and to better communicate its mission to expanding local, national and international audiences. For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call (408) 961-5800 or visit www.montalvoarts.org.

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