

# IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham  
B1 2HS  
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709  
WEBSITE. [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)  
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892

## Press Release

**Marjolijn Dijkman**

*Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*

**23 February – 25 April 2011**

Ikon presents the first UK solo exhibition of work by Dutch artist Marjolijn Dijkman, featuring archival works, video, animation, sculpture and an installation inspired by the dining table of Soho House, Birmingham, the 18<sup>th</sup> century meeting place of the Lunar Society.

Dijkman's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (2005-ongoing) forms the heart of the exhibition. Referring to Abraham Ortelius' *Theatre of the World* (1570) – thought to be the first atlas – it is an ambitious archive seeking to map the planet through thousands of digital images, classified into three groups: *Gestures*, depicting human intervention in the natural world; *References*, which geographically translate architectural and design language from other locations; and *Speculations*, recreations of other times, past and future. The imagery of *Theatrum* bears reference to travel photography and amounts to a kind of anthropological survey, playfully illustrating the similarities in efforts to 'make do and get by' all over the world. Ultimately, the archive betrays universal human systems of thought and values, signifying our basic dreams, fears and desires.

Popular imagery informs two further works: *Wondering Around* (2008) brings together images drawn by Dijkman from computer games, movies and early travel photography, each showing a single person from behind, a lonely wanderer overlooking an unfamiliar landscape. Suggestions of innocent exploration belie a desire for power over nature, an attitude that the artist seeks to undermine. The animation *Blue Marble* (2008) references the phenomenon of ideas slipping across time and space. A photograph of Earth, shot in 1972 by the crew of Apollo 17, has been appropriated by countless symbols and logos, representing the widest variety of activities, organisations and political, social or environmental causes. *Blue Marble* shows 1500 such impositions onto the original iconic picture, an image now so widely appropriated as to have been almost severed from its source.

*Cont.*

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The moon – the destination of the Apollo spacecraft – was the literal guiding light of the Lunar Society, illuminating journeys home after meetings at Soho House, the Birmingham home of Matthew Boulton. This illustrious group of thinkers and industrialists epitomised the 18<sup>th</sup> century Enlightenment, and included such figures as James Watt, Josiah Wedgwood, Joseph Priestley and Erasmus Darwin. Their enthusiasm for exploration, collecting as a form of knowledge, mapping and desire to categorise signified a belief in the possibility of progress that resonates in Dijkman's practice. For Ikon, she produces *LUNÄ* (2010), a standardised facsimile of the table at Soho House around which the society met. Visitors are encouraged to have their own 'Lunar' meetings, to think more experimentally towards a better future.

This exhibition is organised in collaboration with Spike Island, Bristol, and is accompanied by a publication. It is supported by The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture, the Mondriaan Foundation and CBK Rotterdam.





**Ends.**

## **Note to Editors:**

1. Press Preview, Tuesday 22 February 2010, 12-8pm
2. A selection of images is shown below
3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Free entry.
4. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Birmingham City Council and Arts Council West Midlands. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.
5. For more information and images please contact Helen Stallard, Press and PR Consultant, on 0774 033 9604 or [h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk)

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	<p>Marjolijn Dijkman</p> <p><i>Camouflage</i>, photograph from the series <i>Gestures</i>, from <i>Theatrum Orbis Terrarum</i> (2005-ongoing)</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist</p>
	<p>Marjolijn Dijkman</p> <p><i>Refer</i>, photograph from the series <i>References</i>, from <i>Theatrum Orbis Terrarum</i> (2005-ongoing)</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist</p>
	<p>Marjolijn Dijkman</p> <p><i>Appropriate</i>, photograph from the series <i>Gestures</i>, from <i>Theatrum Orbis Terrarum</i> (2005-ongoing)</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist</p>
	<p>Marjolijn Dijkman</p> <p><i>Explain</i>, photograph from the series <i>Gestures</i>, from <i>Theatrum Orbis Terrarum</i> (2005-ongoing)</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist</p>