

Artist's 'Aerial Bridge' an inSITE pilot project

By Robert L. Pincus
ART CRITIC

Flight, literal and symbolic, gave the inaugural weekend of inSITE05 a sense of momentum and a buoyant atmosphere. The source was human cannonball Dave Smith, who crossed the border from the Playas de Tijuana as part of Javier Téllez's strange, poignant work called "One Flew Over the Void."

And flight becomes something of a continuing motif with one of the new projects — dubbed "interventions" — which takes place in Tijuana tomorrow as part of what the inSITE05 organizers are calling Weekend II. Model-scale airplanes don't possess the drama of a circus act. But a good number of them will be hovering above the Tijuana River basin, beginning at 3 p.m., courtesy of artist Maurycy Gomulicki's "Aerial Bridge," which should provide its own strain of visual theatrics.

The Polish-born artist, who has made his home in Mexico City for several years, has brought together model airplane clubs from Tijuana and San Diego for the past several months to collaborate with him on an airborne performance. Instead of one spectacular border crossing in the cannonball style, the miniature planes will be crisscrossing "la linea."

As with many inSITE interventions, the project is designed as much to bring people together from both cities as it is to provide a finished work. The clubs from both sides of the border have formed their own bond, which will likely outlast Gomulicki's event, comments curator Tania Ragasol.

"The pilots have been amazing," Ragasol says. "Working with them has really provided a rewarding aspect of the piece."

"Aerial Bridge" will only be visible from the Mexican side of the border. Bleachers, accessible from the bridge that crosses the Tijuana River, are being set up for the occasion.

Tijuana's Caliente Race-track is the site of the other

major item on Saturday, "Ellipsis," which begins at 8 p.m. It is being billed as a "live visual and sound image event." Experimental musician Hans Fjellestad, who has received acclaim for his documentary films "Frontier Life" and "Moog," is overseeing its creation. Artists Damon Holzborn, Liisa Lounila, Magaly Ponce and Ivan Díaz Robledo are his chief collaborators.

Canadian artist Althea Thauberger wanted to engage some segment of San Diego's large military community, and music rather than art became her means of doing so. "Murphy Canyon Choir" is the name of both her project and of the musical ensemble she formed during the past year. Its members are military wives. They will perform Sunday at 3 p.m. at Jean Farb Middle School.

The members of the group have written songs, with the help of composer Scott Wallingford. Southwestern College music professor Terry Russell served as their choir director.

"There are a mix of styles," explains curator Donna Conwell. "Folkie songs, choral music, soft rock and bebop. The lyrics are moving and quite interesting. They're about love and loss, and about being separated from a partner."

Admission is free to all of the events, but the inSITE05 organizers recommend that people sign on for the shuttle service (\$50 for both days, \$30 for students), particularly for "Ellipsis" and "Murphy Canyon Choir." Shuttle passes can be purchased beginning today at the infoSITES in front of Balboa Park's San Diego Museum of Art or Tijuana's Centro Cultural.

If you wish to attend "Ellipsis" on your own, pick up tickets at either infoSITE in advance or RSVP at info@insite05.org to have your name added to a list. For general questions on any event — there are additional openings tonight at Pomegranate clothing shop, 1152 Prospect St., and the Aethnaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., both in La Jolla — call (619) 230-0005.

**Gerardo
Ontiveros
displays his
plane, which
will fly in
"Aerial
Bridge," a
project by
artist
Maurycy
Gomulicki.
*inSITE05***

