

**Kristin Posehn: Architectures**  
**Collection CAE1101**

**Introduction/Abstract**

In 2007, Kristin Posehn began developing an architectural artwork titled *Reclamation* about the remote ghost town of Metropolis, the first master-planned community in Nevada. In 2014-2015 Posehn designed, fabricated, and installed *A house made of air and distance and echoes*, an architectural installation erected on an abandoned airfield near Vacaville, California. Materials include process notes, vinyl fragments, exhibition ephemera, documentary photographs, and exhibition photographs, a brochure and a compiled newspaper.

**Biographical Note: Kristin Posehn**

Born in Northern California, Kristin Posehn lived in Maastricht, the Netherlands, for two years as a research fellow at the Van Eyck. In the same year as *Reclamation*, her work was included in the exhibition "Chanting Baldessari" at the Bonnefanten Museum in Maastricht, and "Parlor and Roseville" at Kate Werble Gallery in New York City. In 2009 she was awarded the Hermine Van Bers Art Prize, NL. Posehn received her Ph.D. in Sculpture from the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, UK in 2007. She has been a Visiting Tutor at the Ruskin School of Painting and Drawing, Oxford University, UK, and her work was recently anthologized in *Imagine Architecture*, published by Gestalten, Berlin, 2014.

**Scope and Content**

In the spring of 2007, while in residence at CLUI (Center for Land Use Interpretation), Kristin Posehn began developing an artwork about the remote ghost town of Metropolis, Nevada. For the initial phase of the project, she researched the history of Metropolis at archives throughout Nevada. Metropolis was founded in 1910 as a real estate venture by The Pacific Reclamation Company. However, due to insufficient water rights the town was largely abandoned and reclaimed by the desert by 1925. Through extensive site visits to Metropolis, Posehn created a comprehensive body of photographs documenting the former entrance to the Lincoln School, which is the last element of façade still standing.

From this body of photographs Posehn created a temporary sculptural installation called *Reclamation*, which was clad with high-resolution photographs of the original. This archway was reconstructed at 1:1 scale as a temporary public outdoor architectural installation in Almere, the Netherlands. *Reclamation* was installed on SITE 2F7, the last remaining undeveloped plot of land in Almere's city center. It was open for view at all times from August 31 – November 15, 2008 as part of the exhibition at Museum De Paviljoens, LOCALISMS, which was developed in collaboration with the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. In conjunction with the exhibition, the original brochure for Metropolis and a selection of covers from *The Metropolis Chronicle* were republished and distributed in the Netherlands and Nevada. Following the conclusion of the installation, Posehn wrote a novella set in Almere, also titled *Reclamation*. More information about the installation, Almere, Metropolis, and the project as a whole, can be found in the novella.

Materials for this project include documentary photographs, pieces of the self-adhesive vinyl that covered the replica arch, *The Metropolis Chronicle* (a republishing of selected covers from the town's newspaper), *The Pacific Reclamation Company Brochure*, and exhibition ephemera.

In 2014, Posehn began to design *A house made of air and distance and echoes*. She first made a maquette from printed paper, cardboard, and timber, held together with clamps, then paper reference template prints for the plywood that were cut to match. The plywood elements were covered with printed vinyl created to

reproduce the “carpenter gothic” style—a vernacular and improvisational offshoot from the larger Gothic Revival. The piece references the “Wedding Cake House,” a well-known example of carpenter gothic located in Kennebunkport, Maine. From this point of reference, Posehn “wiped away the house and manipulated its architectural frosting via digital process and hours of construction.” After completion of the piece in 2015, she photographed it—often in a dense tule fog.

Materials for this project include documentary process photographs, an artist’s statement, process notes, and working and exhibition prints.

### **Inclusive Dates**

2008 – 2016

### **Bulk Dates**

2008 – 2015

### **Quantity / Extent**

.5 cubic feet

### **Language**

English and Dutch

### **Arrangement**

*Kristin Posehn: Architectures* is organized into two series based upon each project.

Series 1: *Reclamation*

Series 2: *A house made of air and distance and echoes*

### **Related Archive Collections**

CAE1041: *Center for Land Use Interpretation: Wendover Residencies*

### **Related Publications**

Vergara, Camilo Jose. *American Ruins*. New York, NY: Monacelli Press, 1999.

Posehn, Kristin. *Reclamation*. Maastricht, Netherlands: Jan van Eyck Academie, 2012.

## **Container Listing:**

### **CAE1101/1 Series 1: *Reclamation*, Folders 1-3, 2008 – 2016**

This series contains the materials related to the sculptural installation project called “Reclamation” by Kristin Posehn. Materials include correspondence, artist information, documentary photographs, vinyl fragments, exhibition ephemera, and republished materials.

#### **CAE Box 72**

- 1-1 Artist Information and Correspondence, 2009 – 2016
- 1-2 Project Materials and Images, 2008
- 1-3 Press Materials, 2008

### **CAE1101/1 Series 1: Additional Materials**

#### **CAE Flat File F5: Oversized Items**

- 1-2#18 Exhibition Poster, 2008
- 1-2#19 Brick vinyl segment (1 of 4) from the Archway, 2008
- 1-2#20 Brick vinyl segment (2 of 4) from the Archway, 2008
- 1-2#21 Brick vinyl segment (3 of 4) from the Archway, 2008
- 1-2#22 Brick vinyl segment (4 of 4) from the Archway, 2008
- 1-2#29 The Archway: Front, Top detail, 2015
- 1-2#30 The Archway, 2015
- 1-2#31 Side View, 2015
- 1-2#32 Front Close, 2015
- 1-2#33 Field, 2015
- 1-2#34 Detail, 2015
- 1-2#35 Archway, Back View, 2015

### **CAE1101/2 Series 2: *A house made of air and distance and echoes*, Folders 1-3, 2014 – 2016**

This series contains the materials related to the project called “A house of air and distance and echoes” by Kristin Posehn. Materials include the artist project statement, process notes, documentary process photographs, and work and exhibition photographs.

#### **CAE Box 72**

- 2-1 Process Notes and Artist’s Statement, 2014 – 2015
- 2-2 Process Documentation Images, 2014 – 2015
- 2-3 Work and Exhibition Prints, 2015 – 2016

### **CAE1101/2 Series 2: Additional Materials**

#### **CAE S-Box 20:**

- 2-3#16 A house made of air and distance and echoes (1), AP, 2016
- 2-3#17 A house made of air and distance and echoes (2), AP, 2016
- 2-3#18 A house made of air and distance and echoes (3), AP, 2016
- 2-3#19 A house made of air and distance and echoes (4), AP, 2016
- 2-3#20 A house made of air and distance and echoes (5), AP, 2016
- 2-3#21 A house made of air and distance and echoes (6), AP, 2016
- 2-3#22 A house made of air and distance and echoes (7), AP, 2016

- 2-3#23 A house made of air and distance and echoes (8), AP, 2016
- 2-3#24 A house made of air and distance and echoes (9), AP, 2016
- 2-3#25 A house made of air and distance and echoes (10), AP, 2016
- 2-3#26 A house made of air and distance and echoes (11), AP, 2016
- 2-3#27 A house made of air and distance and echoes (12), AP, 2016
- 2-3#28 A house made of air and distance and echoes (13), AP, 2016
- 2-3#29 A house made of air and distance and echoes (14), AP, 2016
- 2-3#30 A house made of air and distance and echoes (15), AP, 2016