



## Utopia Now! (and Then)

Feb 15, 2002 - May 13, 2002

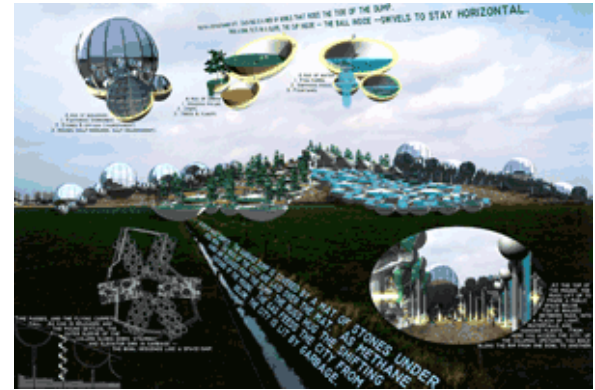
In the United States Sonoma County only rivals upstate New York as a locus for experimental communal living. (And Then) traces the rise and fall of utopian communities founded in Sonoma beginning in the 1870s. Through original artifacts, photographs, and archival documents the exhibition illuminates the founding ideals of these unique experiments in religious mysticism, socialism, and open land communalism, and the practical and social realities that eventually led to their demise.

*Utopia Now!* features the work of socially engaged artists and designers proposing radical concepts and practical solutions for urban transformation. While some artists create elaborate unrealizable fictions that present hopeful models of what could be achieved, others engineer practical tools designed for use by specific communities. Rather than manifesting itself in the form of a sweeping, unified model of a perfect society, the measured idealism of the artists and designers featured in *Utopia Now!* is expressed through projects addressing very particular situations, constituencies, and locales.

*Utopia Now!* was curated by Marina McDougall. *Utopia Now!* was originally organized and presented by the CCAC Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art in San Francisco and Oakland.

Support for this exhibition was provided by Banana Republic and the LEF Foundation.

(Title Image courtesy Acconci Studios, Breda, The Netherlands)



A city that Rides the Garbage Dump