

The Arts Catalyst & Furtherfield present

**Ivan Puig and Andrés Padilla Domene**

## **SEFT-1 Abandoned Railways Exploration Probe Modern Ruins 1:220**

**Furtherfield Gallery, Finsbury Park, London N4 2NQ, UK**

**20 June–27 July 2014** (Press preview 20 June, 5pm)

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11am-6pm

[www.artscatalyst.org](http://www.artscatalyst.org) | [www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)



**Ivan Puig and Andrés Padilla Domene** (Los Ferronautas) built their striking silver road-rail SEFT-1 vehicle to explore the abandoned passenger railways of Mexico and Ecuador, capturing their journeys in videos, photographs and collected objects.

In their first London exhibition, **SEFT-1 Abandoned Railways Exploration Probe - Modern Ruins 1:220**, commissioned by The Arts Catalyst and presented in partnership with Furtherfield in their gallery space in the heart of Finsbury Park, the artists explore how the ideology of progress is imprinted onto historic landscapes and reflect on the two poles of the social experience of technology - use and obsolescence.

Between 2006 and 2011, the artists travelled across Mexico and Ecuador in the SEFT-1 (*Sonda de Exploración Ferroviaria Tripulada* or Manned Railway Exploration Probe). In a transdisciplinary art project, they set out to explore disused railways as a starting point for reflection and research, recording the landscapes and infrastructure around and between cities. Interviewing people they met, often from communities isolated by Mexico's passenger railway closures, they shared their findings online, [www.seft1.com](http://www.seft1.com), where audiences could track the probe's trajectory, view maps and images and listen to interviews.

The artists' journeys led them to the notion of modern ruins: places and systems left behind quite recently, not because they weren't functional, but for a range of political and economical reasons. In the second half of the 19th century, the Mexican government partnered with British companies to build the railway line that would connect Mexico City with the Atlantic Ocean – and beyond to Europe. This iconic railway infrastructure now lies in ruins, much of it abandoned due to the privatisation of the railway system in 1995, when many passenger trains were withdrawn, lines cut off and communities isolated.

For this new exhibition, the artists are inviting British expert model railway constructors to collaborate by creating scale reproductions of specific Mexican railway ruins exactly as they are now. One gallery becomes a space for the process of model ruin

construction. The room's walls will show the pictures, documents, plans and other materials used as reference for the meticulously elaborated ruin construction. With this action a dystopian time tunnel is created.

The SEFT-1 exploration probe will be on display next to the gallery 20–22 June, 11–13 July, 18–20 July and 25–27 July 2014.

### The Artists

Ivan Puig (born 1977, Guadalajara, MX) has exhibited internationally in Mexico, Germany, Canada, Brazil and the United States. He is the recipient of a number of awards and residencies including the BBVA Bancomer Foundation Grant for the SEFT-1 project (2010-2011) and the Cisneros Fontanals Foundation (CIFO) Grant in 2010. Puig, a member of the collective TRiodO (with Marcela Armas and Gilberto Esparza), lives and works in Mexico City.

Andrés Padilla Domene (born 1986 in Guadalajara, MX) has exhibited work in various contexts including ISEA 2012 (Albuquerque, New Mexico), The National Museum of Art MUNAL (Mexico City, 2011), 04 Transito\_MX (Mexico, 2011), and EFRC, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo (Quito, Ecuador, 2012). His video work as director and producer with Camper Media includes documentaries, fiction films and TV shows.

### Events

Saturday 21 June 2pm – gallery tour with the artists, free

Saturday 21 June 3–5pm – **A de-industrialised estate**, talk with Dr Malcolm Miles and discussion with the artists at Furtherfield Commons, a short walk across the park from the gallery (limited capacity £5, online booking [here](#))

Saturday 12 July 11.30am–1.30pm – drop in to the gallery and meet model railway maker extraordinaire **Neville Reid** and artist **Andrés Padilla Domene**, free

Saturday 12 July 2–4pm – **Death Collapsing Into Life** a guided walk along Parkland abandoned railway with landscape architect, urbanist and writer Tim Waterman (limited capacity £5 and up to two children under 15 free, online booking [here](#))

Saturday 19 July 10am–12.30pm – **Create your own Railway Exploration Vehicle** family workshop for children 7-12 years led by Codasign (limited capacity, £30 one child £50 two children, plus one accompanying parent, online booking [here](#))

Saturday 19 July 2–5pm – **Code your own Retro Game with Python** a beginners workshop for young people aged 13-17 to learn coding (limited capacity, £36 please bring a laptop with you, online booking [here](#))

### Support

Presented in partnership with [Furtherfield](#)

With support from [Embassy of Mexico](#), [Arts Council England](#), Central de Maquetas

### For interviews, images and further information, please contact:

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## Notes to Editors

1. **The Arts Catalyst** commissions contemporary art that experimentally and critically engages with science. It produces provocative, playful, risk-taking artists' projects to spark dynamic conversations about our changing world and seeks new ways to involve artists, scientists and the wider public in a discourse about the impact of science in society. [www.artscatalyst.org](http://www.artscatalyst.org)

2. **Furtherfield** is the UK's leading organisation for arts, technology and social change. Since 1997 Furtherfield has created online and physical spaces and places for people to come together to develop and create critical experimental art and digital technologies on their own terms. Furtherfield Gallery and Commons are based in the heart of London's Finsbury Park. This serves as a hub to connect and activate local and international communities of artists, technologists, thinkers and doers. [www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)