

PROJECTS

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019
Tel. 956-6100

PROJECTS: ANNE AND PATRICK POIRIER



Ausée, Anne and Patrick Poirier's miniature city constructed of thousands of pieces of burnt wood, will be exhibited in the East Wing galleries of The Museum of Modern Art from September 15 through October 29, 1978. Directed by Laura Rosenstock, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, PROJECTS: ANNE AND PATRICK POIRIER is one of six concurrent PROJECTS exhibitions at the Museum this fall. PROJECTS is an ongoing Museum program begun in 1971 to explore new directions in contemporary art.

The Poiriers recount an extensive mythological history of Ausée in written materials accompanying the exhibition. Ausée is a 16½ by 32½ foot model of an imaginary lake-side city destroyed by fire, its buildings blackened by smoke and flames, reduced to ruins and abandoned. A fictional city, it was inspired by the writings of Herodotus.

The design of the model is derived from the Domus Aurea (Golden House), Nero's vast Roman palace now entirely in ruin and buried. For the Poiriers, Domus Aurea, with its long subterranean corridors and succession of black rooms, symbolizes the dreams and myths of cultural memory. Using imaginary elements of myth as much as actual history, the Poirier's elicit, in their constructions, memories of the buried past preserved in its ruins. In slowly planning their unique constructions, they often visit a selected archaeological site--taking photographs, drawing up plans, gathering leaves, flowers, stones and building fragments, and, with damp paper, taking casts of walls and statues.

Fascinated with a world in a state of ruination and its paradoxical impression of transcended time, the sight of ancient temples still in use in Cambodia and Korea served as a catalyst for the Poiriers' work, which explores this interrelationship of the present with past civilization.

Anne and Patrick Poirier, born in 1942 in Marseilles and Nantes, studied at the École des Arts Decoratifs in Paris and began working together in 1970. From 1967 to 1971 they studied in Rome as Prix de Rome recipients. In 1970, after a trip to Osaka, Japan, they spent several months in Korea and Cambodia.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. The Museum's exhibition program is partially funded through the New York State Council on the Arts

August 1978

For further information, please contact Luisa Kresiberg, Director of Public Information (212) 956-2648, or Bruce Wolmer, Assistant (212) 956-7295, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.
