

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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NEWTON HARRISON & HELEN MAYER HARRISON

PENINSULA EUROPE

APRIL 12 – MAY 10

Newton Harrison and Helen Mayer Harrison, environmental artists who have collaborated since 1971, will exhibit multi-media installations that relate to large-scale projects. The exhibition features giant maps, landscape photographs, an aerial video, walk-on floor pieces, and sound columns of conversation. The Harrisons, whose proposals have influenced long-term public policy planning, are internationally recognized for producing visionary works, grounded in the natural sciences, that argue for beneficial new forms in the cultural landscape.

The Harrisons' conceptual design propels their site-specific proposals. Visual metaphor defines and unifies a geographical area to be considered, creating an iconic image with mnemonic power – a pattern of mountains, a dragon-shape, a circular ring, for example. Text and dialogue, identified as *Conversational Drift*, include Socratic questioning, storytelling, and other forms of verbal metaphor to encourage public discourse.

The Harrisons' installations, books, and sites represent the uncanny surfacing of something repressed but present in minimal and conceptual art: ethics. The Third Hand, Charles Green

PROJECTS ON VIEW

Peninsula Europa, 2000 - 2005

Invited by Expo 2000 and the Schweisfurth-Stiftung to examine the future of the landscape of Europe, the Harrisons view the peninsula of Europe as a geophysical network of drain basins that, with the restoration of forests, meadows, and grasslands in the high grounds, could purify the region's waters. The European Union, the Environmental Protection Foundation of the German Government, museums in three countries, and other institutions provided funding for a traveling exhibition throughout Europe to disseminate their ideas.

Casting a Green Net: Can It Be We Are Seeing a Dragon?, 1998

The Liverpool Tate Gallery and the Henry Moore Foundation commissioned the Harrisons to consider the industrialized Transpennine region of the north of England.

A Vision for the Green Heart of Holland, 1995 - 1996

Commissioned by the Cultural Council of South Holland, the Harrisons' proposal, envisioning an ecological corridor separating the ring of cities from the central areas, successfully blocked plans for development.

Newton Harrison and Helen Mayer Harrison, both Professors Emeriti at the University of California, San Diego, have exhibited at the Feldman Gallery since 1974. They received the Groeneveld Prize in 2002 for their contributions to the Dutch landscape.

There will be an opening reception on April 12, 6 – 8. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information contact Laura Muggeo (212) 226-3232 or laura@feldmangallery.com.