

in the dark room...

DAVE HULLFISH BAILEY



Dave Hullfish Bailey is interested in the often entropic process of disorganizing and re-organizing information. Beginning with in-depth research, his projects over the past several years have examined the makeshift solutions, provisional structures, self-organization, nomadism, and do-it-yourself manuals of survivalist lifestyles, echoing the politically radical communities in the 1960s. Often staged like laboratories, his sprawling installations contain their content within their physical form: they are flimsy, provisional, and subject to change, with ladders balancing on buckets, lights hanging from strings, water flowing through aluminum trays, and metal clamps barely holding things together. This newest project continues the artist's ongoing research at Slab City, a mostly seasonal community built upon an abandoned military base in California's Imperial Valley. More specifically, he focuses on the ad hoc community library he found wedged under a Palo Verde tree. As an information dumping ground in the California desert, the library grows organically, with new extensions screwed on to existing shelves whenever necessary. Although a library is traditionally designed to organize knowledge, this one gets disorganized and reorganized whenever the next wave of squatters happens to pass through. Mirroring this modular and itinerant system, Bailey attaches sculptural elements onto the central metal structure of a boat trailer, as if he is literally taking his research on the road.

(Sept. 11, 2009 –Jan. 3, 2010)

Dave Hullfish Bailey was born in 1963 in Denver, Colorado, and he currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He has presented exhibitions, installations, and performances worldwide, including at The Suburban, Oak Park, Illinois; CASCO, Utrecht; Secession, Vienna; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; Herning Kunstmuseum, Herning, Denmark; and the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles. His work has also been presented at institutions worldwide, including *Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon* (2007); Kunsthaus Dresden; Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Berlin-Kreuzberg; Centre d'édition contemporaine, Geneva; and P.S.1 Center for Contemporary Art, Long Island City, New York.

Image:

*Ditch/School*, 2008

Mixed media, dimensions vary. Installation view. Mesler & Hug, Los Angeles. Courtesy of the artist and Mesler & Hug, Los Angeles. Photo by Joshua White.