

# JESSE JONES

## MAHOGANY

5 February - 27 February 2010

Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces is pleased to present new work by one of Ireland's most accomplished young artists, Jesse Jones. GCAS will be showing her critically acclaimed film *Mahogany* which premiered at the 2009 Istanbul Biennial.

*Mahogany* was filmed in Cooper Pedy during Jones' residency at GCAS in May 2009, and features a cast comprised from members of Melbourne's contemporary art community.

Jones' practice focuses on the embedded political and social histories that are present within everyday life, and with this work Jones explores the idea of a utopian 'Paradise City'. Jones drew from Bertolt Brecht's 1927 play "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany", highlighting political ideologies and their spectral residues within history. This work was described by *The Guardian UK* as "a masterful rejigging of Bertolt Brecht's bitter fable about the fall of a city dedicated to pleasure."

Using Brecht's mode of distanciation, *Mahogany* is presented as a non-place that can be read as a critique of present political conditions. *Mahogany* - in both the play and the film, is a town embedded with metaphorical associations to ideas of post utopia. It questions ideas of convergence and the systemic injustices inherent in capitalism as well as the possibilities of its collapse.

This work furthers Jones' explorations of moments when hidden histories come to the surface, such as demonstrations or strikes. Often referencing B movies or pop music video forms, Jones' work employs popular culture as an expression of this collective narrative of history that can also be a site of shared memory.



For further information or images, please contact Emily Cormack

T: +61 3 9419 3406 F: +61 3 9419 2519 E: emily@gertrude.org.au www.gertrude.org.au

Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces 200 Gertrude Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Australia