

Van Alen Institute presents

THE AURORA PROJECT

an exhibition by Van Alen Institute New York Prize Fellows
Jason Kelly Johnson and Nataly Gattegno, Future Cities Lab

OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 6:30–8:30pm

EXHIBITION

September 16–October 16, 2009
Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 12–5pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Thursday, October 15, 2009, 6:30–8:30pm

Van Alen Institute
30 West 22nd Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10010
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August 19, 2009, New York – Van Alen Institute is pleased to present **THE AURORA PROJECT**, an exhibition by New York Prize Fellows **Jason Kelly Johnson** and **Nataly Gattegno**. Johnson and Gattegno's work offers an index of shifting territorial resources in the Arctic and creates a speculative vision for a massive new energy infrastructure and settlement pattern. An innovative spatial representation of an imminent environmental condition, it suggests how contemporary political, social, and ecological trends might be channeled toward a more productive future for the region.

The exhibition comprises three related installations. "Aurora" interconnects the ephemeral qualities of the Arctic ice field with the dynamic behavior of its viewers, translating the shifting dimensions of the ice into an immersive system of flickering auroras and responsive luminescent skins. "Terra Incognita" is a map room consisting of original drawings, diagrams, and other materials that provide a view into how the Arctic region has been represented, claimed, and mythologized in the past and present. A smaller interactive instrument, "The Glaciarium," engages visitors' senses through the sight and sound of a melting ice core.

Join us for an opening reception on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, and a panel discussion about the project on Thursday, October 15, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. These programs are free and open to the public.

Please visit www.vanalen.org or www.future-cities-lab.net for more information.

The Van Alen Institute New York Prize Fellowship is supported in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. THE AURORA PROJECT was made possible with additional support from The University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning (Research Through Making Grant, Dean Monica Ponce de Leon), The University of Michigan Map Library, The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Columbia University Avery CNC Fabrication Lab (David Kwon, Christo Logan, Nicole Seekely, Philip Anzalone—Assistant

Director of Avery Fabrication), NYC College of Technology (Carmen Trudell, Joseph Lim, Felix Baez), and Future Cities Lab (Jason Kelly Johnson, Nataly Gattegno, Carrie Norman, Thomas Kelly). Project collaborators and assistants include Troy Rogers (sound and interaction), Noah Keating, *mathbeat industries* (interactive and programming consultation), Dayoung Shin (poster/pamphlet design), Kezia Ofiesh, Paul Fromm, Sarah Fugate, Hank Byron, Taylor Burgess, Ed Yung, and Ben Fey. The assistance of Kyle Kugler, Jim Staddon, Gin Harr, Yuki Staddon, Sunmi Moon, Katie Hilton, Matt Young, and Brad DeVries is also gratefully acknowledged.

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About Future Cities Lab

Jason Johnson and Nataly Gattegno initiated Future Cities Lab in 2004. Future Cities Lab is an interdisciplinary design and research collaborative bridging architecture and landscape urbanism with material sciences, robotics, and engineering. Currently in residence at Van Alen Institute in New York as New York Prize Fellows, Johnson and Gattegno served as the 2008-9 Oberdick and Muschenheim Architecture Research Fellows at the University of Michigan. Both Johnson and Gattegno graduated from Princeton University. They hold full-time faculty positions at the California College of the Arts (CCA) in San Francisco and have taught at the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania, leading studios and research seminars in design, ecology, landscape urbanism, and advanced technologies. Their work received Second Prize in the 2005 Seoul Performing Arts International Competition and an Unbuilt Architecture Award from the Boston AIA. In 2008 they were finalists in the History Channel's "City of the Future" competition in Washington, D.C. They have exhibited their work in a number of venues, recently including a solo show of their design and interactive work at the Extension Gallery for Architecture, Chicago. Their work will appear in two forthcoming publications: *Subnature: Architecture's Other Environments*, by David Gissen; and *Interactive Architecture*, by Michael Fox and Miles Kemp. For more information, please visit www.future-cities-lab.net.

About Van Alen Institute

Van Alen Institute promotes innovative thinking about the role of architecture and design in civic life. In addition to the prestigious New York Prize Fellowships, its activities include design competitions, lectures and symposia, exhibitions, publications, and research and advocacy. Its programs engage a broad constituency of people in New York City, the nation, and around the world who participate in shaping the designed environment. For more information, please visit www.vanalen.org.

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