

The Panorama Handbook

Thoughts and  
Visions On  
and Around  
the Queens  
Museum's  
Panorama of  
the City of  
New York

 QUEENS MUSEUM









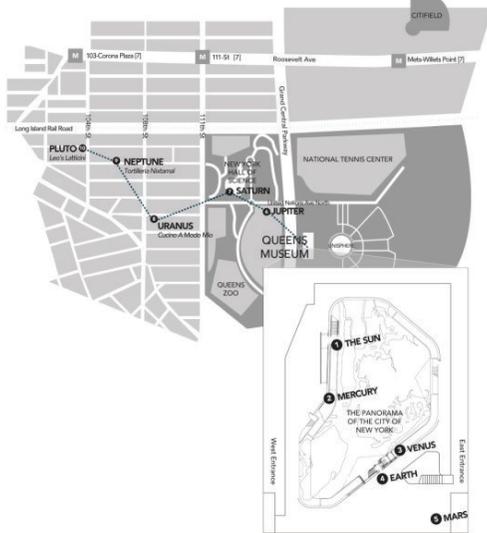




**CHRIS BURDEN**  
**Scale Model of the Solar System, 1983**

This is a scale model, both in size and distance, of the solar system. The Sun (865,000 miles in diameter) is represented by a sphere 13 inches in diameter and 40 inches in circumference and is placed just above the Bronx on the Panorama of City of New York at the Queens Museum. Each planet of the solar system is constructed to the correct scale and is placed at the correct distance across and beyond Flushing Meadows Corona Park into the neighborhood of Corona. The distance from the Sun varies from 36 feet for Mercury, the closest, to almost a mile away for Pluto, the farthest planet (Pluto was reclassified as a "dwarf" planet in 2006).

CHRIS BURDEN (b. 1946, Boston, MA): In the early seventies, Burden became widely known for sensational performances involving his body. Since then, he has produced a multitude of assemblages, installations, kinetic and static sculptures and scientific models. He has had major retrospectives at the Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA (1988) and MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (1996). In 1999, Burden exhibited at the 48th Venice Biennale and the Tate Gallery in London. Most recently a survey of his works in the past 40 years, *Extreme Measures* was held at the New Museum, New York (2013). Chris Burden currently lives and works in Topanga, CA.



This project is part of the exhibition *Bringing the World into the World* at Queens Museum, June 15 – October 12, 2014. For more information call 718-592-9700 Ext. 124.

**QUEENS MUSEUM**  
 New York City Building  
 Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
 Queens, NY 11368  
 T 718 592 9700  
 queensmuseum.org

Chris Burden  
*Scale Model of the Solar System, 1983*  
 Wood, 9 stainless steel ball bearings, 9 acrylic stands and 9 wood and acrylic cases  
 Placed in various locations within the Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and Corona, Queens, approximately 1 mile distance between the Sun and Pluto  
*Bringing the World into the World, June 15 - October 12, 2014*

- 1 **THE SUN** (865,000 miles in diameter) is represented by the size of a sphere 13 inches in diameter and 40 inches in circumference. The sun is suspended above the Bronx in the Panorama of the City of New York at the Queens Museum.
- 2 **MERCURY** (3,100 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.05 inches in diameter. Mercury is located on the viewing walkway near the Statue of Liberty in the Panorama of the City of New York at the Queens Museum since its distance from the Sun would vary, due to its elliptical orbit, between a minimum of 36 feet (28.6 million miles) and a maximum of 55 feet (43.5 million miles).
- 3 **VENUS** (7,700 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.12 inches in diameter. Venus is located on the viewing platform near Coney Island in the Panorama of the City of New York at the Queens Museum since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 83.6 feet (66.8 million miles) and a maximum of 84.8 feet (67.7 million miles).
- 4 **EARTH** (7,900 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.12 inches in diameter. Earth is located at the Atrium Entrance to the Panorama of the City of New York at the Queens Museum since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 114 feet (93.1 million miles) and maximum of 118 feet (94.4 million miles).
- 5 **MARS** (4,200 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.063 inches in diameter. Mars is located at the East entrance of the Queens Museum since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 160 feet (128.2 million miles) and maximum of 193 feet (154.6 million miles).
- 6 **JUPITER** (88,770 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 1.33 inches in diameter. Jupiter is situated outside the Queens Zoo's Aviary seen through the fence from United Nations Avenue North since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 576 feet (460.2 million miles) and maximum of 634 feet (506.4 million miles).
- 7 **SATURN** (75,100 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 1.13 inches in diameter. Saturn is located in the entrance of the New York Hall of Science since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 1,047 feet (836.5 million miles) and maximum of 1,172 feet (935.8 million miles).
- 8 **URANUS** (11,470 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.17 inches in diameter. Uranus is located at Cucino A Modo Mio (51-01 108th St. 718-271-4300) since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 2,126 feet (1,698 million miles) and maximum of 2,336 feet (1,866 million miles).
- 9 **NEPTUNE** (10,540 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.16 inches in diameter. Neptune is located at Tortilleria Nixtamal (104-05 47th Ave. 718 699 2434) since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 3,465 feet (2,767 million miles) and maximum of 3,528 feet (2,817 million miles).
- 10 **PLUTO** (3,370 miles in diameter) would be the size of a sphere 0.05 inches in diameter. Pluto is located at Leo's Latticini (46-02 104th St. 718 898 6069) since its distance from the Sun would vary between a minimum of 3,440 feet (2,748 million miles) and maximum of 5,720 feet (4,569 million miles).

**Buvoli, Luca**

The three-part multi-media installation featured the first radio episode of Not-a-Superhero's manifestations and adventures by Luca Buvoli. The exhibition included a mixed media installation, an animated film, a sculpture, audio-digital sound recordings, and a surprising addition to the Panorama of the New York City. What's hovering over the model of the New York City? Is it a bird? Is it an airplane? Oh, no, that's him! It's Not-a Superhero!! He has been the protagonist of Luca Buvoli's comic book series since 1992. Upon his arrival to the big city Not-a-Superhero finds himself disoriented. But is it the real city? This series of mini-episodes deals with issues of fragmentation that is accelerated by the state of immigration and cultural diversity in late capitalism. Lependorf's virtuous music compositions and sound collages serve as metaphors for the philosophical dialogue of Not-a-Superhero, in which he is now revealed as a "floating signifier."

*Around, Around, and Away: Not-a-Superhero and the Myth of New York, 2001*  
*Luca Buvoli in collaboration with composer Jeffrey Lependorf*  
*Site-specific installation with sound in the Panorama of the Queens Museums' Panorama of the City of New York*





































**Landscape**

On the most basic level, landscape is everything you see when you go outdoors-if you're looking. It's what you see from a single (static or mobile) point of view-a set of surfaces, the pictorial or the picturesque, "as far as the eye can see" (without aid of microscope or telescope). Unlike place (which I defined above as seen from the inside), landscape can only be seen from outside, as a backdrop for the experience of viewing. The scene is the seen. The word landscape is used interchangeably for a scene framed through viewing (a place) and a scene framed for viewing (a picture).

*Lippard, Lucy. 1997. The Lure of the Local. Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society, 8, New York: The New Press.*

**Leisure**

*Veblen, Thorstein. 1899. The theory of the Leisure Class. New York: Macmillan.*



**Light/Darkness**

*Milton, John. 1667. Paradise Lost. London: S. Simmons.*

**Liu, Wei** (b. 1972, Beijing, China)

Liu's ongoing *Library* series translates the chaos of his native city: a sprawling metropolis in a state of constant development and demolition. Made out of massive piles of school books sourced from secondhand markets in Beijing, his sprawling installations waver between utopia and dystopia, depicting eroded cityscapes. Characteristic landmarks become unrecognizable as the city lives in a state of metamorphosis. Here, Liu's destruction of books prompts ideas of censorship or oppression. Their compromised condition also serves as a metaphor for the urban landscape, which the artist sees as broken and unreadable as a result of human intervention.





















*"Definition of NEORAMA," accessed July 3, 2017, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/neorama>.*

**Panstereorama:** -a model of a town or country, in relief, executed in wood, cork, pasteboard, or the like.

*"Definition of PANSTEREORAMA," accessed July 3, 2017, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/panstereorama>.*

**Pleorama:** -a moving picture whose optical effects produce the impression of moving away or away from the observer. The best-known Pleorama was a 19th-century moving panorama entertainment where the viewers sat in a rocking boat while panoramic views on painted canvas rolled past. The word has sometimes been used for other entertainments or innovations.

*"Definition of PLEORAMA," accessed July 3, 2017, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pleorama>.*

**Reality**

Open for submission

**Reanimation Library / Andrew Beccone** (b. 1974, Ann Arbor, MI)

Reanimation Library, headquartered in Gowanus, Brooklyn, has launched its 13th local branch library at the Queens Museum. Panoramicly installed in a 250-foot-long horizontal line on the walls encircling the museum's central Atrium, the Corona Branch collection contains over two hundred volumes from the library's main collection, augmented by new acquisitions from the Museum's immediate neighborhoods, Corona and Flushing, Queens.

Corona Branch enters into dialogue with the exhibition's accompanying publication (available September 2014), the encyclopedic Incomplete User's Guide to Bringing the World into the World. The branch features books that explore subject entries such as "cartography," "illusion," and "panopticon." Much of the library's collection hails from the height of Modernity—a time when our belief in technological progress was still strong. This historical moment is embodied by the 1964/65 New York World's Fair and in the bird's-eye perspective provided by the Panorama of the City of New York, which was built for that Fair. Looking at the unselfconsciously quotidian books of Corona Branch—artifacts from within living memory that nonetheless reveal an immense gulf in perspective—we are reminded of our imperfect, though still intact, desire to orient ourselves in the universe.

Presence library is a mistranslation of

the German word for reference library, Präsenzbibliothek. In addition to being a non-circulating collection, the library encourages in real life encounters with actual books and actual humans.





























