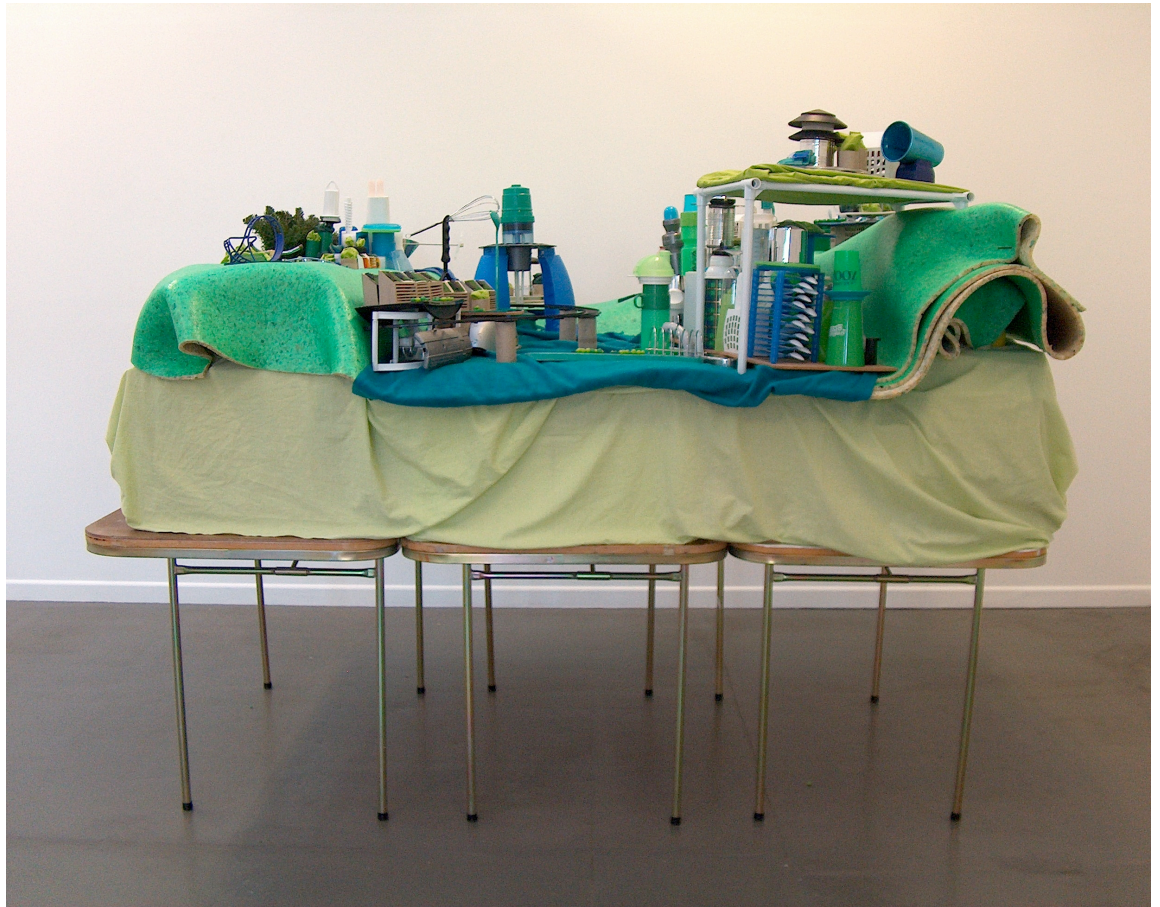


# KATE BOOCOCK | ONWARD!

19 May - 13 June 2009

Kate Boocock,  
Wellington Project,  
2007



Boocock's work begins with questioning the zealous adoption of all things 'sustainable' in all sectors of society. Her working practice speculates on possible consequences that can come from the many assumptions and oversights which occur, despite the good intentions.

The spark of her idea was the eco-city Dongtan. The city is planned for an island in China, and is currently under construction, due to be completed by 2050. It is designed to be completely sustainable – environmentally and culturally. While a noble effort, it is doubtful how effective such a project is in a location by the sea, in a country of 1 billion inhabitants, when we know so little about the direction of climate change.

Boocock is interested in this city's development as a response to the threat of climate change, and critiquing it to test its underlying assumptions. Borrowing the eco-city concept of Dongtan, Boocock has applied these ideas to the Dunedin city landscape, to see how it would work for us.

Beginning with investigations into a number of environmental predictions for the Dunedin area. She has considered historical and current urban plans or developments, as well as scientific predictions for changes to the landscape rising temperatures and sea levels, increases in wind strength and coastal erosion. Visualising the combined

and contingent impacts Boocock then constructs a version of the city imagining these things had taken place.

Following on from a similar treatment of Wellington landscape, Boocock constructs (or rather organises) these hypothetical tableaux from materials sourced from the areas in question.

This vision of how Dunedin may look in the future is not a detailed construction, rather an exercise designed to enable a viewer to entertain a different future – considering the threats we don't like to consider, but without the bleak depictions we may be used to seeing.

In conjunction with *Onward!* the Blue Oyster will also be running the first in a series of educational workshops. Students will be invited to construct their own future city sculptures, based on the concepts and methods used by Boocock. Workshops will be run on Tues 9 and Thurs 11 June from 12:30pm. Participation is free and available to school groups from any year. Bookings are essential and can be made by emailing [education@blueoyster.org.nz](mailto:education@blueoyster.org.nz)