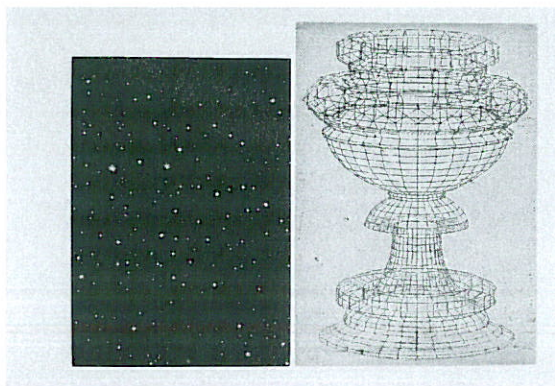


Imaginary Spaces: Selections from The Menil Collection

On view at The Menil Collection August 22, 2008 – March 1, 2009

Free public program: Saturday, August 23, 6:30 p.m. –
Gallery Talk and Film Screening with Peter Mowris



Vija Clemins - Constellation-Uccello I

Houston, July 7, 2008 -- Imaginary spaces can be found throughout the history of art and literature—from urban and architectural plans that exist only on paper to picturesque landscape painting to great prose works such as Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*.

Drawn from The Menil Collection's diverse holdings, *Imaginary Spaces* examines three centuries of paintings, sculpture, and works on paper that depict invented landscapes and hypothetical or "built" environments. The exhibition will locate common thematic threads through approximately 30 works, including, among others, Giorgio de Chirico's "metaphysical" paintings of haunting cityscapes, architectural sketches for an unrealized museum from the "New York Five" architect John Hejduk, and Michael Heizer's 1969 pen-and-ink drawing for sculptural space in the deserts of the American West.

Imaginary Spaces draws its inspiration from a series of exhibitions organized by Dominique and John de Menil in the 1960s. Four decades later, the themes of these shows are much relevant, particularly 1964's "Out of This World: An