

Accidental Publics

Friday and Saturday, October 2 & 3, 2009

Northwestern University and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

A two-day symposium focusing on temporary public artworks that address an “accidental public” - people, viewers, an audience, or passersby who are not expecting to encounter a work of art. The purpose is to theorize and compare the strategies of projects that attempt to bridge the art and everyday life divide in present tense and real space, and to engage discussion that explores our intentions and the effects of choosing to work in this way.

Accidental Publics is organized by Northwestern University's Department of Art Theory and Practice and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Sculpture Department, and co-sponsored by the Departments of Performance and Arts Administration at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. It will include presentations by invited artists as well as faculty, students, and alumni of area colleges and universities. Presentations will focus on specific works that have been realized and have had a public life. Please visit the website of Northwestern's Department of Art Theory and Practice (www.art.northwestern.edu) for additional information as the event approaches. All events are free and open to the public.

Schedule of events

FRIDAY OCT 2

The Mary and Leigh Block Museum, Northwestern University

10:00

Lecture: Michael Rakowitz

11:15

Session 1: **Spectacle**

Industry of the Ordinary: *The Weight of a Worn Shirt*

Ben Fain: *Fire Safety*

The Sages: *Fishbowl*

Tracy Chou: *The Rock and Braille Stairwell*

Session 2: **No one to ask**

Briana Schweizer: *It's About Time*

Eric Peterson: *Snow Machine*

Matt Irie and Dominick Talvacchio: *Platform Constellation*

Katya Grokhovsky: *Send Me Home*

1:30

lunch break

2:30

Lecture: Dennis Adams

3:45

Session 3: **Asking for it**

Frau Fiber: *Redressing New Orleans*

Casey Lurie: *Apple Structure*

Trudi Antoine: *Open Doors*

Joseph Miller: *Nudge*

Laurie Palmer: *Oxygen Bar*

SATURDAY OCT 3

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 280 S. Columbus Drive, Room 012

10:00

Lecture: Patricia Phillips

10:45

Session 4: **Claiming Public Space**

Dara Greenwald and Olivia Robinson: *Spectres of Liberty*

Theaster Gates: *The Dorchester Project*

Kyle Tidd: *K1-430*

Adam Farcus: *Store Interventions*

Fereshteh Toosi: *Searching for the Fourth River*

discussion with Stephanie Smith

12:45

lunch break

2:00

Lecture: Dan Peterman

3:15

Session 5: **Creating Forums**

Incubate: *Incubate*

Jung A Woo: *Mobile Project Space*

Philip Von Zweck: *Broad Castings*

discussion with Stephanie Smith

4:45

Final remarks: Patricia Phillips

Participants:

Dennis Adams is internationally recognized for his urban interventions and museum installations that reveal historical and political undercurrents in public space and architecture. He is a Professor at Cooper Union School of Art in New York.

Frau Fiber, a.k.a. Carole Lung, is an artist, activist and nomadic textile worker.

Theaster Gates is an artist and performer, and he teaches at the University of Chicago. Dara Greenwald is an artist and activist based in New York, and Olivia Robinson is an artist who teaches at Syracuse University. Among many other activities, they collaborate with Josh McPhee on the Spectres of Liberty project.

InCUBATE (Institute for Community Understanding Between Art and the Everyday) is a research institute and artist residency program dedicated to exploring new approaches to arts administration and arts funding. InCUBATE will be represented by Abby Satinsky and Bryce Dwyer, two of the four co-directors, who are current students in The School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Master of Arts Administration program.

Industry of the Ordinary are Adam Brooks and Mathew Wilson, both artists and educators currently living in Chicago and teaching at Columbia College.

Matt Irie and Dominic Talvacchio have been collaborating for approximately ten years. Irie is based in the Chicago area and teaches at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. Talvacchio is based in New York.

Dan Peterman's internationally acclaimed work explores the intersection of art and ecology on a wide range of scales and platforms. He is co-founder of the Experimental Station in Woodlawn, and Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Patricia Phillips is an arts writer, curator, educator, and Dean of Graduate Studies at the Rhode Island School of Design. Her influential writings on public art have been published and read widely.

Michael Rakowitz's site-specific work has been widely recognized since his 1998 paraSite project gained national and international attention. He teaches at Northwestern University.

Stephanie Smith is Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Curator of Contemporary Art at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art.

Fereshteh Toosi is an interdisciplinary artist who teaches in the New Millennium Studies program at Columbia College Chicago.

Philip Von Zweck is an artist, musician, curator, gallerist, and radio host who has often hosted the work of others in public places.

Ben Fain, The Sages (Lily and Beau), Brianna Schweizer, Katya Grokovsky, and Jung A. Woo are recent graduates or current students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Casey Lurie, Trudi Antoine, Traci Chou, and Kyle Tidd are recent graduates or current students at Northwestern University.

Adam Farcus and Eric Peterson are respectively, a recent graduate of, and a current student at, The University of Illinois at Chicago.

Joseph Miller is a recent graduate of the University of Chicago.

Organizers:

Jeanne Dunning is an artist and a professor in the Department of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University.

Laurie Palmer is an artist and writer and Chair of the Sculpture Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Directions and Parking Information for Northwestern University

The Block Museum is located on the southeastern portion of Northwestern University's Evanston campus, near the lake and just off Sheridan Road. Between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Northwestern visitors must have parking

passes in order to use university lots. Visitors without passes may find street parking although much street parking is limited to 2 hours. There is a public parking facility 2 blocks south of campus on the south-east corner of Chicago Avenue and Clark Street.

For a map, more parking information, and directions to the Block Museum visit <http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/visit/>

Driving directions from the south: Going north on Sheridan Road from south Evanston, you will see Sheridan curve sharply to the left (westbound) as it reaches the south end of the Northwestern University campus, one block north of Clark Street. Look for a large Northwestern University sign along the westbound stretch of Sheridan Road directing you to the South Campus Entrance. Make a slight right turn on to Campus Drive just before Sheridan curves to the west and before passing the sign. After passing a 2-story parking lot on your right (you may park there after obtaining a parking permit at the Museum), you will come to a stop sign and see another sign directing you to take a right to reach the Arts Circle. Turn right, proceeding east on Arts Circle Drive. The road will veer north up a slight hill before ending in the Arts Circle. The Museum is the glass and limestone building located on the Arts Circle.

From the CTA: Take the [CTA Purple Line to the Davis Street Station](#). Exit through the east side of the station. Turn left on Benson Avenue and proceed north _ block to Church Street. Turn right on Church Street and walk three blocks east to Chicago Avenue. Make a left, turning north onto Chicago Avenue. Walk two blocks north to Sheridan Road. Cross over toward the Northwestern Arch, turn right and walk two blocks east on Sheridan Road to Campus Drive. You will pass a large Northwestern University sign on Sheridan Road directing you to the South Campus Entrance. Turn left on to Campus Drive and proceed north to the stop sign. Turn right and proceed east on Arts Circle Drive. You will pass the Marshall Dance Center and the Josephine Louis Theater on your left, with a short flight of steps between the two. Just past the Louis Theater, Arts Circle Drive will turn north (to your left) up a hill. Proceed up a second short flight of steps and then pass by the Ethel M. Barber Theater. The Museum is the glass and limestone building located immediately past the Barber Theater.

You can also reach Northwestern and the Block Museum via Metra; visit the Block web site for directions.

Directions and Parking Information for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago SAIC's Performance Space is located at 280 S. Columbus Drive, between Jackson and Monroe. To enter the building, you will need to show Security an ID and have your photo taken. The Performance Space is in the basement, Room 012.

Public Transportation: All CTA "E" lines will take you to downtown Chicago; from the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Jackson Boulevard, walk east towards the lake on Jackson to Columbus Drive and turn left; the entrance to 280 S. Columbus Drive will be right there.

Driving: There is some street parking on Columbus Drive between 9 and 4 pm, for which you have to feed the new "paybox." But it is hard to find spaces, you will be towed promptly after 4 pm, and it is more expensive than the garage if you are staying the whole day. The entrance to the closest garage is on Columbus Drive just north of Monroe, on

the east side. If you bear to the right, it costs \$14 for a day; if you bear to the left, it costs more.