

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

945 Madison Avenue
at 75th Street
New York City, NY 10021

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE



Amy Balkin, *This is the Public Domain*, 2003-present, land, near Mojave, California, 2.64 acres

Annual Whitney ISP Exhibition, *Common Spaces*, Goes on View May 23 at The Kitchen

NEW YORK, MAY 5, 2014— From May 23 to June 14, 2014, the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program presents its annual spring exhibition at The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, New York. This year's exhibition, *Common Spaces*, is curated by the ISP's Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellows: Maria Teresa Annarumma, Molly Everett, Joo Yun Lee, and Kristine Jærn Pilgaard. The exhibition features works by Bani Abidi, Ayreen Anastas and Rene Gabri, Amy Balkin, Bianco-Valente, Natalie Bookchin, Cybermohalla Ensemble, Klara Lidèn, Mary Mattingly, Hương Ngô and Hồng-Ân Trương, Sreshta Rit Premnath, Yorgos Sapountzis, Allan Sekula, and Knut Åsdam. The exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

An opening reception will also take place at The Kitchen on Friday, May 23 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The exhibition's curators noted: "Common Spaces seeks to examine the status of public space today. While nominally open to everyone, public spaces are also delimited by boundaries that serve both to preserve their public character and to limit them to certain uses by certain publics. At a time when public space is increasingly subject to control by private interests and authoritarian forms of state power, discourses about 'the commons' have simultaneously arisen to rethink how resources are held and used in common. Drawing on this genealogy of the commons, the exhibition includes works that invoke shared spaces, envisioning the public space as truly held in common. In this respect, diverse artistic practices

question, challenge, and renovate public space at the same time that the wholesale privatization of public goods threatens to bankrupt the idea of public space altogether. Treating the exhibition space as a common space also means juxtaposing multiple, and often conflicting, positions. The included artists all use different approaches to intervene in various kinds of spaces, proposing divergent meanings of the common. “

Public Programs

Through the public programs, Common Spaces proposes forms of discussion and action that address both the potential for public space and the contradictions it involves, interweaving particular spaces, communities, and social groups with differing artistic interventions. These events are free and open to the general public; seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The updated schedules will be listed at: <http://whitney.org/Research/ISP/CuratorialProgram>

Performances:

Yorgos Sapountzis

The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street
Friday, May 23
7 pm

Hương Ngô and Hồng-Ân Trương

AND AND AND Stammering: An Interview
The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street
Wednesday, May 28
6 pm

Organized in conjunction with their installation for the exhibition, this performance by Hương Ngô and Hồng-Ân Trương is based on the oral interview that is part of the application for U.S. citizenship.

Film Screening:

Knut Åsdam

Tripoli (RED to HD, 24 min, color, stereo, 2010) and
Abys (35mm to HD, 43 min, 5.1 surround audio, 2010)
The Theater, The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street
Saturday, June 14
1 pm and 3 pm

Workshops-invitation only:

Organized in collaboration with the Education Department at the Whitney Museum, Hudson Guild, and the Beacon School.

Bianco-Valente

Constellation of Me (Costellazione di Me)

Bianco-Valente will create a conversation with Hudson Guild community members about the experiences of New York to create together a different perspective of the city. Their wall drawing, realized in collaboration with the participants, will transform the map of Chelsea into a map of quotations and ideas which arise from their conversations during the workshops.
Fulton Senior Center Sessions

Yorgos Sapountzis

Performance Workshops

Yorgos Sapountzis, focusing on the way in which people live in and share public spaces, will organize a collective performance with the Westbeth community created from listening to accounts of the experiences of public space shared by participants during the workshops.
Westbeth Residents Council

Mary Mattingly

From Useful to Useless: Transforming Stuff

The children participating in this workshop will work with broken and unwanted objects that have been donated by people in the community and collected by the artist. These objects will be used as the raw

material for the workshop project, to be transformed by the children, and then returned back to the original owners in the neighborhood.

Exhibition Support

Support for the Independent Study Program is provided by Margaret Morgan and Wesley Phoa, The Capitale Group Charitable Foundation, and the Whitney Contemporaries through their annual Art Party benefit.

Endowment support is provided by Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo, the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas, the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, and the Helena Rubinstein Foundation.

Generous support is also provided by Office for Contemporary Art Norway, Consulate General of Norway, and the Simone Subal Gallery.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 20,000 works by more than 3000 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new building, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it will open to the public in spring 2015.