

DIFFERENCE MAKING: THE INTERSECTIONS OF ART & CRITICAL CRAFT

MULTIPLES. Chicago is a hybrid fair, exploring the spectrum between comprehensions of critical craft, visual art practices, and the diverse manifestations that sit within this spectrum. MULTIPLES. Chicago is an opportunity for each participant to reevaluate their practice and their objects within a shifted and shared context. Some choose to use us as a laboratory to elevate their everyday handmade objects through thoughtful, uncluttered and clean yet unfamiliar gallery presentation, and other visual artists participate in order to expose themselves and their pieces, projects, installations and performances to a large consumerist audience usually unavailable to them. All these come together in the organic muscle that is MULTIPLES. Chicago. The American Customs & Excise definition of 'a work of art' is that the owner must be able to prove it is completely useless. Is function what acts as the divide between art and craft? Curatorially, we are cognizant of how the 'multiple' has developed as part of industrialization and consumerism, entering into the cultural consciousness of visual art practitioners as well as mass object production industries alike. **Saturday, March 15 at 4pm, Multiples 2nd Floor Lounge; Moderated by Alison Cuddy with Jovencio de la Paz, Melissa Maddonni Haims, Ashley Lieber, EC Brown and Catie Olson.**



Alison Cuddy is the arts and culture reporter at WBEZ 91.5 FM Chicago Public Media. Alison's been with the station since 2001 working as a host, reporter and producer. Previously she was host of Eight Forty-Eight and currently co-hosts Strange Brews, a podcast about the community and culture around craft beer.

EC Brown is a painter who pursues fantasies of niche social orders and revised histories, and bends the hermetic character of the paintings through form and circumstance. He is an exhibition organizer who co-directed the COMA exhibition space from 2006-2008, and currently co-directs Floor Length and Tux domestic artspace series, and organizes the ASCII exhibition series.



Catie Olson is multi-disciplinary artist born in Decatur, Illinois, the pleasant home of two chicken cars. She received her BS from the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign in 1995 in Agriculture, ventured to Chicago and received her BFA at the School of the Art Institute in 2000. She often works multi-disciplinary and with focus on interactive kinetic sculptures and sound. Catie organizes SpiderBug, a mobile short film festival. She co-organizes Floor Length and Tux, a domestic art space. She has shown work in Chicago including Heaven, The Garfield Park Conservatory, The Franklin, Swimming Pool, antenna and minidutch galleries.



gallery settings, Ms. Haims has a passion for public art and graffiti. She has been yarn bombing since early 2010.

Melissa Maddonni Haims is a fiber artist based in Philadelphia. She creates knit graffiti, soft sculpture, and large-scale knit + crocheted installations using recycled, reclaimed or rescued textiles. Her career in the arts began in New York City in the mid 1990's, and life led her back home to Philadelphia in 2004, where she lives with her husband and young daughter. Ms. Haims is an active member at The 3rd street gallery. She was a part of the executive team for FiberPhiladelphia 2012, an international biennial of fiber arts and is a consultant for The Handwork Studio, a kids needle arts and fashion studio, based in Narberth, PA. While the majority of her work shows in



Ashley Lieber's work is an interdisciplinary calling on topics of sustainability. Lieber graduated from the University of Michigan (MFA '10), where she studied in The School of Natural Resources and Environment, ecological restoration, environmental psychology, and alternative urban agricultural methodologies. Lieber is a Rackham Institute of the Humanities Fellow in Public Scholarship and recipient of several creative research grants, one of which took her to Central America, where she lived and worked on an all women's owned agro-eco farm, learning various practices of sustainable living, farming, and reforestation. She taught and lectured in several Public Schools and State Universities including the Leslie Science Center, Coit Creative Arts Academy, Grand Valley State University, and the University of Michigan. She enjoyed merging topics of art, ecology, technology, and the environment. Inclusively, her work provokes ideas about the intersection of art, ecology, and urban agriculture. She currently resides in Fennville, Michigan, a quiet agricultural community, where she lives and works as an artist.

Jovencio de la Paz (www.jovenciodelapaz.org) is an artist, writer and educator living and working in Chicago, IL. His installations, performances and collaborative projects have been exhibited both nationally and internationally, most recently at the Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland, Oregon (Object Focus: the Bowl, 2013) and at the Sculpture Center in Cleveland, Ohio (After the Pedestal, 2012). Dealing with traditional skills in textile paired with an interest in ephemerality, socially engaged media and radical collectivity, de la Paz is also a co-founder of the Craft Mystery Cult (www.craftmysterycult.com), an on-going collaboration sited in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Oakland, CA; and Chicago, IL. Jovencio de la Paz is an instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Department of Fiber and Material Studies.