

Upcoming Events

All events are free and open to the public.

Public Critique
September 11, 1 - 3 pm

Join Center Program artists as they present their exhibition works and answer questions. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Opening Reception
September 11, 3 - 5 pm

Celebrate the Center Program's class of 2016.

**Forum Discussion and BBQ:
Subverting Sameness**
October 2, 2 - 4 pm

Led by the 2016 Center Program visiting curator Dan Devening, this event will feature a panel of Center Program artists as they discuss how the diversity of the program (in terms of age, cultural background, ethnicity, geographic location, and educational history) has impacted the development of their artistic production over the past six months. With **Alejandro Acierto, Kayla Anderson, James Britt, Marian Carow, Marcelo Eli, Brent Fogt, Deirdre Fox, Victoria Fuller, Azedeh Gholizadeh, Stephanie Graham, Stacza Lipinski, Injung Oh, Yvette Kaiser Smith, Suzanne Torres, and Gwen Zabicki.** Continue the conversation on Hyde Park Art Center's rooftop where BBQ and drinks will be served.

Video Screening - Deirdre Fox
October 8, 2pm

The public is invited to view and critique *A Constructed Poem*, a silent animated short created from plastic waste in conjunction with *This Was Not a Fishing Line* and to offer their own poetic interpretations responding to the short.

The Center Progrm is partially supported by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events for the City of Chicago, Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies, Luminarts, National Endowment for the Arts, and Marwen.

Hyde ParkARTCENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.

New Business

Artwork by artists participating in The Center Program

Kanter McCormick Gallery & Gallery 5
August 7 - October 16, 2016



Marian Carow, *RCP Intervention*, 2016, wood & acrylic, 8 1/2 x 4 x 4 inches

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On The Center Program and the Past Five Years

For each of the last five years I have had the good fortune of leading a different group of dedicated and driven artists inside of The Center Program. Each year artists take on the challenge of creating new works alongside peers, presenting to visiting professionals from the field, and participating in rigorous discussions around how their new works speak to topics that matter and reflect who they are. The results are shown inside *New Business*, an exhibition curated by Dan Devening.

This program is about “centering” oneself, and watching each artist find that creative space is truly inspiring. For six months each year I am able to not only see new works created by a collection of Chicago artists, but I also get to connect with the people behind these works, messages that matter, and ideas that will be cultivated for years to come.

As of this year The Center Program will boast over 100 alums, a truly amazing group. This year’s class has been great to work with, showing patience and support for each other at levels I am not sure I have ever witnessed. As always the diversity of works show the strength of the program; artists of all kinds coming together to develop a shared vocabulary while pushing each other to contribute to larger conversations, making a case for why Chicago artists of all kinds are deserving of the attention they get.

The Center Program stems from the artists’ practice, but also runs so well because of the many people involved. Thanks to Program Coordinator Elizabeth Weiss for her tireless support, curator Dan Devening for his exhibition vision, and our visiting professionals Dawoud Bey, Juan Angel Chavez, Jim Dempsey, Jim Duignan, Annie Morse, Susan Snodgrass, Tricia Van Eck, Patterson Sims, Lori Waxman, Jefferson Pinder, and Amanda Williams. Finally, thank you to our great program partners 3Arts, Luminarts, Marwen, and University of Chicago’s Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies.

Mike Nourse
Director of Education

On Artist Development and Growth

Situated somewhere between that challenging last semester of any MFA program and high school band practice, the Hyde Park Art Center’s exquisitely rare Center Program has emerged to become Chicago’s most exciting platform for artists’ engagement and action. It exists outside of other institutional models; that beautiful marginal status makes it gritty and alive. Each year, we work through a new messy experiment whose outcome can only be measured by the full investment of its members. That contract is rarely if ever in question, especially this year. Each artist in *New Business* brought something memorable to the table and added perspective to a rich and textured conversation. It has been a privilege to be involved with this program for the past four years. I am especially pleased to be the curator of *New Business*, this amazing collaborative effort showcasing the results of six months of conversation and production.

The Center Program is a rigorous meeting point for artists who come to Hyde Park from varied cultural, educational and creative experiences, and with different agendas and objectives. And they really are artists—directed, disciplined, focused and arriving at the beginning of the term with exciting proposals to actualize. Passing a tough review process to become part of the Center Program, they are everything the HPAC mission represents: innovative thinkers whose ambitious ideals and generous spirits make them influential contributors to a community of visionary makers.

For Center Program artists, everything happened on Monday evenings. Each week a handful presented past and current projects and looked to their peers—and a different distinguished visitor from the Chicago art community—for response and feedback. On this stage, tough critical dialog was balanced with regular sessions of riffing and noodling. Problems were addressed; successes lauded. New ideas were challenged, debated, worked through,



Installation view. Artwork from left to right by: Azadeh Gholizadeh, Brent Fogt, and Jeffrey Austin

Featuring artwork by:

Alejandro Acierto
Miguel Aguilar
Kayla Anderson
Jeffrey Austin
James Britt
Greg Browe
Marian Carow
Mel Cook
Marcelo Eli
Brent Fogt
Deirdre Fox
Victoria Fuller
Eric J. Garcia
Azadeh Gholizadeh
Stephanie Graham
Yvette Kaiser Smith
Stacza Lipinski
Kelly Lloyd
Fidencio Martinez
Randall Miller
Injung Oh
Suzanne Torres
Melissa Weber
Gwendolyn Zabicki

associations create energies and rhythms that lead the audience through the space and around the work for the most compelling possible experience. We see large installations, complex constructions, projected and monitor-based video, graphic and text pieces; these assertive presentations are placed in relation to quieter pieces that draw the viewer closer for more intimate engagements. These resistant patterns of placement come not only through material and form but also through the ideas directing those formal decisions. *New Business* is a platform for political, social, cultural, historical and scientific positions; the ways the artists deliver those messages is ultimately the driving force of this show.

My gratitude goes out to the artists whose work I have the privilege to showcase in *New Business*. I also thank Allison Peters Quinn, Mike Nourse and Elizabeth Weiss who form the nucleus of this ambitious effort. Their belief in this program keeps it solidly on track.

New Business is a declaration of modest and weighty propositions made by a group of remarkable people who came together randomly to form an intellectually spirited community. What transpires in this show is made clear by the energetic delivery and exchange of ideas; it’s a triumphant conclusion of a very lively adventure. Enjoy this show and celebrate the accomplishments of these artists. Talk to them about their work; you’ll be rewarded if you do.

Dan Devening
Guest Curator of *New Business*
Director, devening projects + editions
Adjunct Professor, Department of Painting and Drawing, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

discarded and ultimately shaped into work that might retain some essence of that original idea. That essence became the pure thing from which many of the works grew to become the resolute statements we see in this exhibition. That electric process represents one of the critical components of this program, shaping the work you see today. Every artist-citizen came to HPAC with different needs and desires. They stepped into this forum with a finely honed point of view and found themselves in front of a new willing audience. This lovely mix of attitude and self-possession is the life-blood of this program and will remain the heart of its initiative. Within this highly supportive, nuanced and sometimes overly critical group, there was always laughter and the celebration of new ideas and breakthroughs made.

Using artworks and context as the primary vocabulary, a well-curated exhibition can tell an intricate story with nuance and subtlety. *New Business*, the 2016 Center Program annual exhibition has grown to be a very complex and layered narrative written from the distinct points of view of an amazing group of artists. Showcasing the results of months of experimentation and discussion, this show celebrates the rigorous thinking and hard studio work of over twenty artists. As the curator, the diversity of the work in this exhibition presented a challenge; it’s also the reason it’s one of the liveliest and most engaging projects with which I have been recently involved.

As an artist and a curator, I think of an exhibition as a formal and conceptual construct. Composed and designed like any other artwork with a careful calibration of color, scale, and material specificity grown out of the ideas driving the work, the show must be unified but alive with drama and surprise. In *New Business*, I organized the space for balance while simultaneously setting up moments of tension and dissonance. Calibrating relationships among the work and integrating the work with the space means that unexpected—and possibly unintended—conversations result. These unforeseen



Fidencio Martinez, *Creighton*, 2016, map & ink, 47 x 33 inches