

Press Release

Everything we want it to be...at all times.

September 11-18, 2014

Opening Reception: September 11, 2014 | 6:30-9PM

Rice University Media Center Galleries

6100 Main Street, MS 549 Houston, TX 77005

www.splx.org

www.rice.edu

[Houston, TX - August 24] Suplex and Rice University, Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts are pleased to present the exhibition *Everything we want it to be...at all times*, featuring the work of Houston-based artists John Forse, Lane Hagood, Bradley Kerl, Cody Ledvina, Gabriel Martinez, and Lauren Moya Ford. The impetus for *Everything we want it to be...at all times* came initially in the form of a response to traditional group shows: curator-driven exhibitions where a central thematic, usually a pet interest of the curator, became the connective tissue between the work of disparate artists. Instead, *Everything we want it to be...at all times* attempts to be a group show about a group—it attempts to give visual and artistic form to a series of conversations, relationships, collaborations, friendships, jokes, and revelations.

Curators Max Fields and Rachel Vogel designed a series of meetings for the artists to discuss their individual practices, their relationships with the other artists, and the possibilities and limitations of collaboration. Throughout the yearlong meetings, the artists challenged the boundaries of individual artistic representation and identity within a group exhibition.

Curators Max Fields and Rachel Vogel designed a series of meetings for the artists to discuss their individual practices, their relationships with the other artists, and the possibilities and limitations of collaboration. Rather than reducing the curatorial framework to a set of dates and instructions to follow, the artists were asked to respond to a series of questions that explore the boundaries of individual artistic representation and identity within the context of a group exhibition. The dialogue-focused meetings offered the artists and curators a creative and transformative production process that allowed ideas to be exchanged and debated freely. Throughout the meetings new complex narratives were created, and in the exhibition, they are presented in visual, performative, relational, and auditory forms.

Everything we want it to be...at all times is an exploration that wrestles with the roles of artist and curator, the dynamics of exhibitions, and the contours of creative freedom. It provides an opportunity to experiment, to learn and grow from failures, and to be surprised.

This exhibition will be accompanied by a downloadable digital catalogue via the Suplex website (www.splx.org). The catalogue will include a selection of transcriptions and images from the group meetings as well as a series of essays written by the curators and organizers.

Everything we want it to be...at all times is co-presented by Suplex Projects and Rice University, Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts and with generous support from Alabama Song Art Space and The Joanna.

About Suplex

Suplex is a curatorial collaboration in which artists and communities engage in syncretic learning experiences through exhibitions, programs, workshops and public forums.

About the Artists

John Forse is a 2014 MFA graduate of the University of Houston. His drawings, paintings, and sculptural works confront current global socio-political issues by injecting humorists and satire through the use of wordplay and a comic influenced drawing aesthetic. His work has been exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions at galleries and institutions such as DOMY Houston and Austin, Lawndale Art Center, Matchbox Gallery, 409 Gallery, and most recently at the Blaffer Art Museum. His work has been featured in publications including Free Press Houston and artist Sebastian Forray's Recent Work Blog.

Lane Hagood is a visual artist currently living and working in Houston. He received his Bachelor of the Arts in Sculpture from the University of Houston in 2008. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions in Houston, Austin, and New York City as well as selected group exhibitions hosted locally, nationally, and internationally. In 2010, Hagood received both the Huntington Art Prize and an award from the Idea Fund. Focusing consistently on the written word, he often finds inspiration and drive for his work in the literature he references in both his work and its titles.

A native of southeast Texas, **Bradley Kerl** received his Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Houston in 2014 and his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing & Painting from the University of North Texas in 2009. He has been an instructor of drawing and painting at the University of Houston School of Art, and currently teaches at the Art Institute of Houston. Kerl's work resituates quotidian objects to create distilled iconographies that hint at sunken, untold, and cryptic narratives. His work has been exhibited in a recent solo show at Art Palace, and throughout Houston at The Lawndale Center, the Blaffer, The Joanna, The Brandon, and The Wendy.

Cody Ledvina is a recently relocated artist who lived and worked in Houston in addition originating two local art spaces, The Joanna and The Brandon. He received his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Houston in 2009 and has shown his paintings throughout Texas as well as in New Orleans, Baltimore, and New York City. In his performative practices, Ledvina has put on several ballets and theatrical performance pieces in both Houston and Austin. As he takes his leave of Houston, Ledvina is hosting exhibitions at the bottom of a pit that resulted from a local construction job going wrong.

Gabriel Martinez received his MFA from Columbia University in 2009 and has participated in renowned artist residencies around the country including at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston CORE Fellowship program (2010-2012), Project Row Houses Artist-in-Residency Program (2012), and the Whitney Independent Study Program (2010). Martinez's art primarily exists outside the gallery environment and takes the form of interventions in sites as varied as public seating, city water drainage, unused plots of land, parks, bootleg markets, and sidewalks. For Martinez, what connects these spaces is the fact that they are occupied and used by many different types of audiences, none of which will experience his work in the same way. As a result, the broad and often unnoticed structures that regulate social behavior and determine public access are opened up for contestation and potential change. He has served as an arts instructor and lecturer at the Glassell School of Arts, the University of Houston, and at Rice University in Houston, TX. Martinez has exhibited his work most recently at the Houston Museum of African American Culture in Cross Section: Latino Artists in Texas and was a guest speaker at artist Eve Fowler's It Is so, It So opening reception at the Brandon.

Born in Boca Raton Florida, **Lauren Moya Ford** received her Masters degree in 2014 at the University of Houston after receiving her BA and BFA from the University of Texas at Austin. An artist, blogger, and contributor to the online arts publication glasstire.com, for which she authored the series Exploring Latino Identities, Ford currently lives and works in Houston. She is interested in the implications of merging text and image-making, exploring the interplay between expectations and incongruities that come from the experience of written material compared to purely visual material. Humor, memory, and semantics inform her suites of drawings and paintings that flit between ambiguity and transparency.

She was the 2013-2014 recipient of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center Fellowship for Interdisciplinary in the Arts, and was awarded a Freed Travel Grant for study in Mexico City. Her work has been shown in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston at the Creative Research Laboratory, the New Gallery, the Blaffer Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and The Joanna, among other venues.

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