



## About Yerba Buena Center For The Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation.

YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video and civic engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787).

Joseph DeLappe, *The Mouse Mandala*, 2006–15. Courtesy the artist.

Inside brochure: Sean Raspet, Installation view of *Folder (A Novel)*, 2010; *OBSCENITY TRIAL*, 2010; and *2Registration::((Untz'tled (Police Incident (8[e.]) 7), (((2007-2012) 2007-2011. ' ) ' ) 2012) 2014, 2014. Courtesy the artist and Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco.*

**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**  
701 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-978-ARTS  
ybca.org



Cory Arcangel, *Permanent Vacation*, 2008. Courtesy the artist.

### Limited Edition Catalog

The *Office Space* exhibition catalog is a limited edition USB drive that doubles as an executive writing pen. The catalog features: screen savers by Idle Screenings artists Stephanie Davidson, Manuel Fernandez, Paul Flannery, Kim Laughton, Jacob Broms Engblom, and Jasper Spicero; Idle Screenings software; artist texts by Laurel Ptak, Sean Raspet, and Andrew Norman Wilson; a newly commissioned essay by critic Mike Pepi; an essay by *Office Space* curator Ceci Moss; as well as images of works, extended wall labels, exhibition floor plan, checklist, and artist bios.

*Catalog is \$5 and available for purchase at YBCA's front desk*

Ignacio Uriarte, *From Black to Blue*, 2013. Courtesy NoguerasBlanchard, Madrid.



## Exhibition Credits



Pilvi Takala, *The Trainee*, 2008. Courtesy the artist and Carlos/Ishikawa, London.

Mika Tajima, *A Facility Based on Change, III*, 2010. Courtesy the artist and Eleven Rivington, New York.

YBCA Exhibitions 2015-2016 are made possible, in part, by **Mike Wilkins and Sheila Duignan, Meridee Moore and Kevin King**, and the **Creative Ventures Council**.

YBCA Programs 2015-2016 are made possible, in part, by **The James Irvine Foundation**.

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Free First Tuesdays underwritten by **Directors Forum Members**.

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Design by Nicole Ginelli.

[ybca.org/office-space](http://ybca.org/office-space)

# office space

November 7, 2015 - February 14, 2016

Cory Arcangel, Mark Benson,

KP Brehmer, Joseph DeLappe, Alex Dordoy,

Harun Farocki, Bea Fremderman, Idle Screenings

(featuring works by Stephanie Davidson,

Jacob Broms Engblom, Manuel Fernandez,

Paul Flannery, Kim Laughton, and Jasper Spicero),

Joel Holmberg, Josh Kline, PIL and Galia Kollektiv,

Julien Prévieux, Laurel Ptak, Sean Raspet,

Mika Tajima, Pilvi Takala, Ignacio Uriarte,

Andrew Norman Wilson, and Haegue Yang

"They say it's friendship. We say it's unwaged work. With every like, chat, tag or poke our subjectivity turns them a profit. They call it sharing. We call it stealing. We've been bound by their terms of service far too long—it's time for our terms."

- Laurel Ptak, *Wages for Facebook*, 2010

"Precariousness, hyperexploitation, mobility and hierarchy are the most obvious characteristics of metropolitan immaterial labor. . . . It is worth noting that in this kind of working existence it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish leisure time from work time. In a sense, life becomes inseparable from work."

- Maurizio Lazzarato, "Immaterial Labor," in *Radical Thought in Italy: A Potential Politics* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996), 136–37.

**Office Space** captures how contemporary artists are responding to significant changes in the design and administration of work in the 21st century. Artists have long had a fascination with the office, but in recent years this attention is distinctly heightened in step with new technologies and management principles that emphasize a more mobile and flexible workforce. From Mika Tajima's deconstructed cubicles to the corporate inspirational babble embedded in Joel Holmberg's newly commissioned paintings, the works in this exhibition deploy numerous subversive, and illuminating, strategies to address how the workplace has developed within the postindustrial economy.

"Immaterial Labor," a 1996 essay by the Italian theorist Maurizio Lazzarato, is central to this exhibition. In it, the author describes a crucial evolution in work since the late 1970s. Lazzarato defines immaterial labor as the work responsible for the informational and cultural content of the commodity, and he sees it as the outcome of the predominance of an information and service economy. Further, he cites immaterial labor as a driver in reorganizing communication, as well as the subjectivity of the worker, toward greater productivity.

Through appropriation, satire, mimicry, and disruption, the artists in *Office Space* negotiate and articulate the predominance of immaterial labor. The familiar environment and tools of the office are reconfigured, hacked, scrutinized, and disassembled. These investigations put the machinations behind office life, and capitalism's larger evolution, into sharp relief.

*Ceci Moss, Assistant Curator of Visual Arts*

## Programs



### Opening Night Party

Sat, Nov 7, 6–10 PM

**Grand Lobby & Downstairs Galleries**  
**\$10 / YBCA Members and YBCA:You Free**

Celebrate the opening of *Office Space* and *Work in Progress: Investigations South of Market* with music, performance, and signature cocktails. The San Francisco DJ crew Surface Tension, with DJs Nihar Bhatt and Chris Zaldua, keep the dance floor bumping all night with a wide range of electronic dance music, while contortionists perform in conjunction with *Office Space* artist Mika Tajima's sculptures. Mingle with *Office Space* artists Joel Holmberg, Joseph DeLappe, Sean Raspet, Mark Benson, and Mitch Trale as well as *Work in Progress* artists Terry Berlier, Weston Teruya, Jenny Odell, Tom Loughlin, and Josh Stulen and Lex Kosieradzki of Stadium Projects.

This opening night party is part of YBCA's Public Square, a day of art, dialogue, and inspiration. [ybca.org/public-square](http://ybca.org/public-square)

### Sauerbruch Hutton Architects by Harun Farocki

Sun, Nov 8, 3:30 PM

**Screening Room**  
**\$10 / \$8 Members / YBCA:You Free**

This compelling, and often humorous, study of a major architectural firm in Berlin follows partners Matthias Sauerbruch and Louisa Hutton. The film gives a perspective on architects and designers at work and an insight into the creative process as they wrestle with ideas and expression. This is the final film by the brilliant Harun Farocki before his untimely death last year. (2013, 72 min, digital)

*Sauerbruch Hutton Architects* by Harun Farocki is part of Architecture & Design Films Showcase 2015.

### YBCA:You Artist Talk with Mark Benson

Thu, Nov 12, 6 PM

**YBCA Hub**  
**Free with RSVP for YBCA:You**

Oakland-based artist Mark Benson will speak about his practice, and his newly commissioned site-specific sculpture *Open Fields* (2015) for the exhibition *Office Space*. Mark Benson's work examines how people move through the fences of their lives. Weekends, security lines, high rent, horrible markets, libidos, sickness, and health are all delineations in time, space, or self that define our actions and efforts. Most projects use everyday objects or materials to bring to life a variety of contemporary social issues and emotions, from anxiety around productivity, to the fear of failure, to the conflicted joy of being lazy.

*YBCA:You Exclusives are FREE for YBCA:You members. Not a member of YBCA:You? Call 415.978.2787 or visit [ybca.org/you](http://ybca.org/you) to sign up!*



Julien Prévieux, *What Shall We Do Next? (Séquence #1)*, 2006–11.  
Courtesy Galerie Jousse Entreprise. © Marc Domage.

### George Chen Presents: I Gave At The Office

Tue, Dec 1, 7 PM

**Screening Room**  
**Free w/ RSVP**

Celebrated musician, writer, producer, and comedian George Chen hosts a special evening of stand-up from West Coast comedians. Among many things, Chen runs San Francisco's premier weekly event for underground comedy Cynic Cave at Lost Weekend Video in the Mission District. From the open office to the water cooler, each set riffs on the reality of contemporary office life and corporate culture. Expect a faux inspirational TED talk, insights from a corporate attorney, and much more. Comedians include: Drew Harmon, Miles K, Liz Stone, and Scott Vermeire.

### Office Space by Mike Judge

Tue, Jan 5, 7 PM

**Screening Room**  
**Free w/ RSVP**

Filmmaker Mike Judge's celebrated 1999 film *Office Space* follows unhappy Initech employee Peter Gibbons as he plots, with co-workers Michael Bolton and Samir Nagheenanajar, to hack the company's accounting system in response to an upcoming downsizing. Starring Ron Livingston, Jennifer Aniston, Gary Cole, Stephen Root, David Herman, Ajay Naidu, and Diedrich Bader, this comedy brilliantly captures the inane aspects of office life in all of its mundane glory.

### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts & San Francisco Cinematheque present: Marketplace for Creativity: Play Us Forever/Let Us Disappear

Fri, Jan 22, 7:30 PM

**Screening Room**  
**\$10 / \$6 YBCA Members and SF Cinematheque Members / YBCA:You free**

Opening with sections of *Living in the World*, Joe Gibbons' self-portrait of wage slavery, these films examine the aesthetics of office space and the dematerialized nature of contemporary work, themes present in the exhibition *Office Space*. Robert Todd's *Office Suite* reflects "cycles of focus, frustration, relaxation and madness" found in the work place. Laure Prouvost's *We Know We Are Just Pixels* enacts outreach from dematerialized denizens of cloud storage data havens. Andrew Norman Wilson's *Webinars* deploy stock footage to dramatize the (con)fusion of work- and playtime. Ryan Trecartin's CEO drag show *K-CorealNC. K (section a)* deliriously depicts the corporate ruling class as fast-living, jet-setting, power-meeting party people.

Bea Fremderman, *Kafka Office*, 2013. Courtesy the artist.

