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 digital engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.296.ARTS (2787).


Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
701 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-296-ARTS (2787)
ybca.org

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 kiss Screenings artists Stephanie Davidson, Manuel Fernandez, Paul Flannery, Kim Laughton, Jacob Broms Engstrom, and Jasper Spierik. kiss Screenings software, artist texts by Laurel Piak, Sean Raspet, and Andrew Norman Wilson; a newly commissioned essay by critic Mike Pellet; 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 front desk.

Ignacio Uriarte, From Black to Blue. 2013, Courtesy NicaraguaBanchero, Mexico.

Office Space

November 7, 2015 - February 14, 2016

Free First Tuesdays underwritten by Directors Forum Members.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

Design by Nicole Cinelli.

ybca.org/office-space
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 now, in response to this attention is distinctly heightened in step with new technologies and management practices that emphasize a more mobile and flexible workforce. From Mike Tajima’s deconstructed cubicles to the corporate inspirational bubble embedded in Joel Hollinger’s newly commissioned paintings, the works in this exhibition display tremendous suave, 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, he 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.

Though appropriation, satire, mimicry, and distortion, the artists in Office Space negotiate and articulate the predominance of informational 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.

Ciao Miso, Assistant Curator of Visual Arts

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, performances, and signature cocktails. The San Francisco DJ crew Surface Tension, with DJ Niles (Pitt) and Chris Zuida, keep the dance floor bumping all night with a wide range of electronic dance music, while contemporary performers in conjunction with Office Space artist Mike Tajima’s sculptures, Mingh in Office Space artists Joel Hollinger and Joseph Delappe, Sven Rugge, Mark Benson, and Mitch Tsuch as well as work in Progress artists Terry Berard, Weston Tenney, Jenny Drexel, Tom Loughlin, and Josh Sluiter and Lee Koppelman of Medium Projects.

This opening right party is part of YBCA’s Public Square, a day of art, dialogue, and inspiration, ypsiguru/public-surface.

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 architectural 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.

Ciao Miso, Assistant Curator of Visual Arts

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 (2010) for the exhibition Office Space. Mark Benson’s work examines how people move through the forces of their lives. Weekends, security lines, high rent, horrible markets, labors, sickness, and work are all estimations 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 Forbids me to FIEVE the YBCA you members. Not a member of YBCA You? Call 415.978.2672 or visit yphq.org to sign up!

Julian Peirce, What Shall We Do Next? (Stylophone #8), 2015, Courtesy Galerie Jeu Jeunesse, © Marc Donovan

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 comedic talent and friends. Chen runs San Francisco’s premier weekly event for underground comedy Cynic Cave at Last Wawaiid Video in the Mission District, from the open office to the water cooler, each set riff’s on the reality of contemporary office life and corporate culture. Expect a few inspirational TED talk insights from a corporate attorney, and much more. Comedians include Derek Harmon, Miles K. Lizstone, and Scott Vermeere.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts & San Francisco Cinematheque present: Marketplace for Creativity: Play Us Forever/Let Us Disappear
Fri, Jan 2, 7:30 PM
Screening Room
$40 / $30 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. Laura Pouwels’ We Know We Are Just Plants invites outreach from dismissing demoralized denizens of cloud storage data havens. Andrew Norman Wilson’s Webinars display stock footage to dramatize the institutionalization of work and Columbia Tristar’s The Office is a drudgery show K-Celorov’s A fraction of a deliriously delicious corporate rôle playing class as fast-living, jet-setting, power-madting party people.

This text is a copy of the original text.