



Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility

A project by ERNEST

September 18–November 22, 2015

Press Preview: Friday, September 18, 5:00–6:00pm

Opening Reception: Friday, September 18, 6:30–9:30pm

Wapato Roundtable: Saturday, September 19, 11:00am–1:00pm



ERNEST, *Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility*, video still, 2015, made in residence at c3:initiative.

August 20, 2015 - Portland, OR: c3:initiative (c3) presents *Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility*, a multi-part art project by Bay Area working-group, ERNEST. Presented from September 18–November 22, 2015, *Demos* is the culmination of ERNEST's two-year artist residency at c3. An opening reception will be held at c3:initiative on Friday, September 18 from 6:30–9:30pm.

While in residence at c3, ERNEST learned about Wapato Correctional Facility, a low-security jail located fifteen minutes from Downtown St. Johns, Portland that has sat empty since it was built in 2004. *Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility* probes the many concerns that the vacant jail suggests: breakdowns in democracy and prevailing power structures, among others. The project's title takes its meaning from various

interpretations of the word "demos". The Greek word demos (pronounced "day-moss"), refers to the "village" or "people." In English, "demo" is used as a shorthand for "demonstration," as reference to the "demo mix-tape," or as the vernacular for "demolition." ERNEST thus uses "demos" to refer to its interest in keeping their methods experimental and provisional, while creating opportunities for local participatory engagement.

Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility comprises a video, publication, limited edition print, and roundtable event. c3 will present a Community Dialogue Series of public programs to expand the discourse throughout the run of the exhibition. c3:initiative's large flex space will be transformed into a black-box for presenting the video piece, with the limited edition print and publication on view and available for purchase.

Acting as a conjuror of sorts, the character of Coyote leads the video component of *Demos*, transforming the specific architecture, history and politics of Wapato Correctional Facility into a platform for conversation and collaboration. The piece takes its main figure from the coyotes that live around Wapato Correctional Facility who burrow beneath the fenced perimeter of the jail to come and go as they please. The video mixes still shots of the 525 empty beds at Wapato Correctional Facility with footage taken from HD, CCTV security cameras, and motion-activated wildlife cameras. Sound samples were taken from the site to create an original score with sound artist Matt Kirkland.

The project's publication is created in collaboration with Portland-based art press, Container Corps and is a collection of essays, drawings, research and primary documents such as news clippings and community surveys. Its contents are both specific to Wapato Correctional Facility and related to general issues of incarceration, participatory citizenship and the role of art in social justice and storytelling. Throughout the book, paper of varied textures, colors and sizes highlight the broad variety of documents included; readers are invited to engage in a kind of research experience by performing small investigations, making connections and drawing conclusions of their own. The publication features contributions from Pete Brook (Prison Photography) with Ernest Jerome DeFrance, Ace Lehner, Sarah Fontaine (Carville Annex), Dan Gilsdorf, and more.

A limited edition print made in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art's Watershed Press incorporates multiple layers, methods, and materials, including lithography, text, color, and metallics. The print's predominant image, a photograph of a coyote hole at Wapato's perimeter, signals hope in the face of futility; there are ways out, ways around, ways under and ways between each fence and each obstacle.

The roundtable component of *Demos* will take place on Saturday, September 19 from 11:00am-1:00pm at the St. Johns Community Center. The schedule includes a panel

discussion with Yaelle Amir, Emanuel Price and Melissa Salazar and a community meal and conversation. The day will provide a platform for exploration, open conversation, and a broadened investigation of themes relating to the empty jail facility, both locally and nationally.

Wapato Roundtable Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 11:00am-1:00pm

11:00am-12:00pm Panel Discussion with Yaelle Amir, Emanuel Price, Melissa Salazar

12:00-1:00pm Community Meal and Conversation

This event is free and open to the public; space is limited.

RSVP Required: info@c3initiative.org

St. Johns Community Center | 8427 N Central Street | Portland, OR 97203

Wapato Roundtable Panelists

Yaelle Amir is a curator, writer and researcher who currently holds the position of Curator at Newspace Center for Photography in Portland, OR. Her writing and curatorial projects focus primarily on artists whose practices supplement the initiatives of existing social movements-rendering themes within those struggles in ways that both interrogate and promote these issues to a wider audience. She has curated exhibitions at Artists Space, CUE Art Foundation, Center for Book Arts, ISE Cultural Foundation, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, Marginal Utility, and the Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University, among others. Her writing has appeared in numerous art publications including Art in America, ArtLies, ArtSlant, ArtUS, Beautiful/Decay, and Sculpture Magazine. She has also worked at major art institutions, such as the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Modern Art, and NYU's Institute of Fine Arts.

Emanuel Price is the Founder and current Executive Director of Second Chances Are For Everyone in Portland, OR. S.C.A.F.E. works to reduce the rate of recidivism by providing support services to promote employment, empowerment, and community engagement for men in transition because Second Chances are for Everyone. Price is currently leading the organization in developing key programs and resources that will help reduce criminals going back into destructive lifestyles after being released from jail or prison.

Melissa Salazar is a May 2015 graduate of Pacific Northwest College of Art, where she studied Communication Design. Melissa has recently become involved in activist work focusing primarily on incarceration of black and brown individuals. She has been influenced by events in her own life and seeks to bring awareness of an invisible society behind bars.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Reception

Friday, September 18, 2015 | 6:30-9:30pm

Free and Open to the Public

c3:initiative | 7326 N. Chicago Avenue in St. Johns | Portland, OR 97203 | c3initiative.org

Visitors are invited to join c3:initiative and artists from ERNEST in marking the opening of *Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility*. Complimentary drinks and light refreshments will be served.

Weekly Reading Group: *The New Jim Crow*

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 2015 | 7:00-8:30pm

Free and Open to the Public

Space is limited. RSVP required for one or all sessions: info@c3initiative.org.

c3:initiative | 7326 N. Chicago Avenue in St. Johns | Portland, OR 97203 | c3initiative.org

Weekly Reading Group to consider the seminal book *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. The discussion is initiated by Yaelle Amir, who curated *To Shoot a Kite*, an exhibition at the CUE Foundation (NYC) that presented "the severe conditions of inmates and exposes [the] broken [prison] system." Conversation will be led and motivated by group participants and invited guests. Sectioned into three meetings, the group will discuss the main issues addressed in the book: the origin of mass incarceration in the U.S.; the racialized structure of the U.S. justice system; the aftermath and legacy of mass incarceration.

Stories in Movement

Saturday, November 7, 2015 | 5:00pm

Free and Open to the Public

c3:initiative | 7326 N. Chicago Avenue in St. Johns | Portland, OR 97203 | c3initiative.org

Presentation of student films and reading from Hollywood Theatre's *Stories in Movement* program with the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center and Open Meadow Alternative Schools. Q&A to follow, with program leaders Taylor Neitzke of the Hollywood Theatre and Laura Lo Forti from *A Fourth Act*.

Taylor Neitzke is a multimedia educator and visual artist. At Hollywood Theatre, she manages educational programming and develops art integration curricula and resources. Neitzke co-created the *Stories in Movement* program and has taught at

various schools and institutions in the Portland area including the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home, Catlin Gabel School and Open Meadow Alternative Schools. Neitzke holds a BFA in Intermedia from Pacific Northwest College of Art. Her experimental films have been screened in numerous Portland locations including BoomBap and the Clinton Street Theatre.

Laura Lo Forti is a multimedia producer and "story midwife" who uses non-traditional approaches to media. She is the co-founder of A Fourth Act, an agency that merges technology and participatory practices to unleash the full potential of stories for social impact. With digital folklorist Brenda Kenneally, she founded The Raw File, a series of immersive documentary works that highlight the intersection of race and socio-economics. She is co-creator of Stories in Movement, and since 2014, has facilitated a community-based oral history project about the 1948 Vanport Flood.

No Thank You Democracy, *The politics of non-participation*

a project by Ariana Jacob

Sunday, November 22, 2015 | 4:30pm

Free and Open to the Public

c3:initiative | 7326 N. Chicago Avenue in St. Johns | Portland, OR 97203 | c3initiative.org

This conversation directs its attention to non-voters, who make up the majority of the American population. Jacob asks what happens to our understanding of the American democratic situation if we shift our focus to those who either cannot or choose not to have a say in it. Non-voters and voters alike are invited to talk about the questions that our non-participating population bring up for all of us.

Ariana Jacob makes artwork that uses conversation as a medium and as a subjective research method. Her work explores experiences of interdependence and disconnection, questions her own idealistic beliefs, and investigates how people make culture and culture makes people. She received her MFA in Art & Social Practice from Portland State University. Her work has been included in the NW Biennial at the Tacoma Art Museum, Disjecta's Portland 2012 Biennial, The Open Engagement Conference and the Discourse and Discord Symposium at the Walker Art Center.

PROGRAM SPONSORS + PARTNERS

This project is supported in part by the [Oregon Cultural Trust](#).

Additional support has come from:

[Container Corps](#)

[Girasole Restaurant and Bar](#)

[Hollywood Theatre](#)

[Framing Resource](#)
[St. Johns Ace Hardware](#)
[St. Johns Coffee Roasters](#)
[Shur-Way Building Centers](#)
[PNCA's Watershed Press](#)

ABOUT ERNEST

[ERNEST](#) is a working-group comprised of a flexible roster. Shifting the focus away from the individual identities of the artists, ERNEST provides a democratic means for artists to make work that challenges dominant ideas about site, body, and power.

ABOUT C3:INITIATIVE

c3:initiative is a nonprofit art organization dedicated to process-based exploration. Located in Portland, Oregon, c3 connects creators and communities through three distinct residency programs, a studio incubator initiative, and integrative exhibition and public programming.

c3 is committed to creating partnerships, facilitating artistic exchange, and developing educational opportunities by cultivating dialogue amongst various communities.

ABOUT THE C3:RESIDENCY

c3:initiative supports the cultural community by inviting nationally and internationally recognized individuals immersed in a creative practice to engage with community groups, regional organizations, and cultural institutions to create a new work. The c3:residency is a long-term, process-based and artist-driven program that supports residents in the creation of a new work from conception to completion. Designed to facilitate a collaborative process and bridge a gap between various entities, the program provides the resident with the time, space, resources, and administrative support to create new work. The program infuses the arts and culture community with a diversity of creative minds. It simultaneously enriches the community with work made collaboratively from within, crafted by meaningful connections and thoughtful dialogue.

PRESS PREVIEW

Friday, September 18, 2015 | 5:00-6:00pm
c3:initiative | 7326 N. Chicago Avenue, Portland, OR 97203
RSVP: info@c3initiative.org

LISTING INFORMATION

c3:initiative: 7326 N. Chicago Avenue in St. Johns | Portland, OR 97203
Hours: Friday-Sunday noon-5pm and by appointment
Public Information: 971-267-2340 | info@c3initiative.org
Exhibition Dates: September 18-November 22, 2015

Opening Reception: Friday, September 18, 6:30-9:30pm

GETTING THERE

c3:initiative

7326 North Chicago Avenue, Portland, OR 97203

By Car

From Downtown Portland: Take US Hwy 30 W toward St. Helens | Cross the St. Johns Bridge | Continue onto N Philadelphia Ave | Turn left on N Lombard St | Take 3rd Left onto N Chicago Ave

From North or Northeast Portland: Take N Lombard west to St. Johns | Turn left on N Chicago Ave

By Public Transit

Bus 4, 11, 16, 44, or 75 to St. Johns

c3:initiative is wheelchair accessible.

St. Johns Community Center

8427 North Central Street, Portland, OR 97203

By Car

From c3:initiative: Head northeast on N Chicago Ave toward N Lombard St | Turn right onto N Lombard St | Turn left onto N Chicago Ave | Turn right onto N Central St

St. Johns Community Center is wheelchair accessible.

By Public Transit

Bus 4, 11, 16, 44, or 75 to St. Johns

PRESS CONTACT

Emily Gaynor Porto | pr@c3initiative.org

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[c3:initiative](#) is located at 7326 N Chicago Ave. Portland, OR 97203

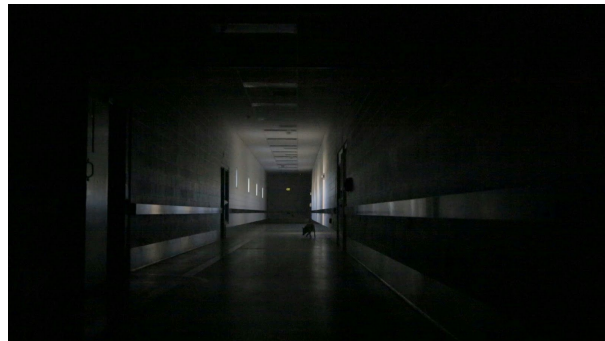
971-267-2340 | info@c3initiative.org

Gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, Noon-5pm

Images Available for Reproduction

c3:initiative
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For images, please contact: Emily Gaynor Porto | pr@c3initiative.org



All images: ERNEST, *Demos: Wapato Correctional Facility*, video still, 2015, made in residence at c3:initiative.