

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Left: Melanie Crean, Shaun Leonardo, Sable Elyse Smith, *Mirror / Echo / Tilt* (video still). Photo credit: Melanie Crean. Right: Detail of Jennifer Moon's *Prison Relic #2: Typewriter* from *Phoenix Rising, Part 1: This Is Where I Learned Of Love*. Photo credit: Patrick Connor.

Upcoming Projects Explore Individuals' Negotiations with Oppression Through Intimacy, Imagination, and Collaboration

March 31, 2016, San Francisco, CA – As a local partner for the Open Engagement–2016: POWER conference, Southern Exposure is pleased to present a series of talks, open houses, and exhibitions, as well as launch a new publication. Open Engagement is an annual, three-day, artist-led conference dedicated to expanding the dialogue around and creating a site of care for the field of socially engaged art. The conference runs from April 28 – May 1, 2016 and, in focusing on the theme of power, highlights the ability of socially engaged artists to make desired results happen.

Southern Exposure takes up this theme through several projects in which power manifests as demands for opportunity, embodied postures of resistance, and the carving out of space shaped by institutional or market forces for intimate and creative gestures. Programs will take place on site at Southern Exposure and in the surrounding neighborhood. They include:

Over the Wall

April 22 – May 14, 2016

Opening reception: Friday, April 22, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Gallery hours: 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Tuesday – Saturday

Over the Wall is a group exhibition about love and other spaces of the imagination within systems and sites of oppression. The artists in Over the Wall reposition hope and imagination within the waiting, liminal

spaces shaped by institutionalized racism, surveillance, and state power. At the center of each work is a focus on creating a space for intimacy within a dehumanizing system.

State-sanctioned and social oppression against individual bodies is encountered and negotiated in the work of Omar Mismar, which considers daily life and queer intimacy under the regime in Lebanon. *Mirror / Echo / Tilt* is a collaborative project by Melanie Crean, Shaun Leonardo, and Sable Elyse Smith, along with others affected by the United States justice system. Their video inserts a speculative narrative into enactments of tableaux of conflict and oppression performed in abandoned prisons and courthouses. Jennifer Moon's *Phoenix Rising* is a series of relics and texts describing her experiences being incarcerated in 2008-2009 for attempted robbery and her vision of the world based on love as a political concept.

Play Hard, Play Fair **Thursday, April 28, 2016**

When: 7:00 – 8:30 PM, with a reception to follow
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

Open Engagement launches on April 28 with a welcoming reception and conversation at Southern Exposure. With speakers including Robby Herbst and Keith Hennessy, the conversation will investigate the complex narrative histories of socially engaged artwork in the Bay Area. Herbst, the winner of the 2014 SoEx Off-Site Graue Award, will discuss his upcoming participatory project *New New Games*, which revisits *New Games* festivals and traces a historic trajectory between 1970s counterculture and the tech culture of today.

A publication of newly-commissioned essays accompanies his project and will be available for purchase on the night of the event.

Alternative Exposure San Francisco Open Houses **Friday, April 29, 2016**

When: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Location: Various locations throughout San Francisco

On April 29, the first full day of the conference, seven past recipients of Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure grant will present projects at various locations throughout San Francisco. Alternative Exposure supports the independent, self-organized work of artists and small groups that play a critical and significant role within the San Francisco Bay Area arts community. Presenting projects include *A Simple Collective + Black & White Projects*, *Art for a Democratic Society*, *Living Room Light Exchange*, *Other Cinema*, *PLACE TALKS*, *Queens of the Castro*, and *Stairwell's*.

OPEN HOUSE LISTING INFORMATION

What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Other Cinema**
Other Cinema, an Alternative Exposure Round 6 Grantee, is a weekly microcinema exhibiting experimental and underground film, video, and performance. Founder Craig Baldwin surveys the history of Bay Area alternative spaces, with a focus on Artists' Television Access, Other Cinema, and the contemporary microcinema scene.

When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 10:00 – 11:30 AM
Location: Other Cinema, 992 Valencia Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

- What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Living Room Light Exchange**
Monthly salon series Living Room Light Exchange, an Alternative Exposure Round 9 Grantee, invites artists and curators to open up their living rooms for dialogues on current undertakings and unanswered questions, and widen their circle of intimacy to include other thinkers and makers. For Open Engagement, LRLE welcomes video artist, photographer and art director Zen Cohen and Rick Prelinger, archivist, writer, filmmaker, and founder of the Prelinger Archives.
- When: Friday, April 29, 2016
12:00 – 12:45 PM Zen Cohen speaks in the living room of Adam Gray
1:15 – 2:00 PM Rick Prelinger speaks in the living room of Jenny Odell
- Location: Two living rooms in San Francisco (address details given upon RSVP)
- Cost: FREE, RSVP at soex.org
- What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Black & White Projects + A Simple Collective**
A Simple Collective, an Alternative Exposure Round 9 Grantee, is an organization of artists and arts professionals dedicated to community, equity, and content-driven contemporary art. Founder Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen presents *Advantage of Disadvantage* at their space, Black & White Projects.
- When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 12:00 – 2:00 PM (gallery open 12:00 – 4:00 PM)
- Location: Black + White Projects, 2830 20th Street #105, San Francisco
- Cost: FREE
- What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **PLACE TALKS**
Alternative Exposure Round 9 Grantee PLACE TALKS is a series of visual lectures about location by Bay Area artists, writers, designers, and archivists that takes place at the Prelinger Library in San Francisco. For Open Engagement, organizer Nicole Lavelle and Librarian in Residence Charlie Macquarie present talks by artists Carolina Magis Weinberg (*Monumental Disorientation: Where is Christopher Columbus?*) and Samuael Topiary (*Exit Zero: Hayes Valley Freeways to the Future*).
- When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (library open 1:00 – 6:00 PM)
- Location: Prelinger Library, 301 8th Street, Room 215, San Francisco
- Cost: FREE
- What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Stairwell's**
Alternative Exposure Round 5 Grantee Stairwell's is an itinerant project by artists Sarah Hotchkiss and Carey Lin. Starting at Southern Exposure, they will lead participants on an interactive group walking tour, challenging familiar understandings of everyday surroundings.
- When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
- Location: Meet at Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
- Cost: \$5 via Brown Paper Tickets, available beginning April 1, 2016 at stairwells.org
- What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Art for a Democratic Society**
Art for a Democratic Society, an Alternative Exposure Round 5 Grantee, is an artist collaborative whose work addresses political activism, urban planning, faux bureaucracies, and class war. For Open Engagement, the collective takes on the persona of a redevelopment agency, asking the public how they would want to change their urban environment. In the form of an impromptu charrette, they ask passers-by to reconsider the use of public space.
- When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Location: Mission Dolores Park, San Francisco
- Cost: FREE

What: Alternative Exposure Open House: **Queens of the Castro**
Queens of the Castro, an Alternative Exposure Round 7 Grantee, brings awareness about the differences between gender and sexuality to high schools and universities by empowering LGBT youth and allies to express themselves. They will operate a photo booth located at Southern Exposure, inviting the public to to express themselves using fabulous props and take selfies with drag performers while empowering participants to have frank conversations about gender.

When: Friday, April 29, 2016, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

Cost: FREE

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Lisa Martin at (415) 863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Admission is always FREE. Website: www.soex.org.

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