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Left: Constance Hockaday aboard the San Francisco–Oakland ferry. Photo by Valerie Imus.  
Right: Image courtesy Jenifer K. Wofford.

## Off-Site Projects by Jenifer K. Wofford and Constance Hockaday

Sunday, November 8 and Sunday, December 6, 2015, in conjunction with the exhibition *Public Works* at Mills College Art Museum

October 12, 2015, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure is pleased to present two newly commissioned works in the urban environment. As urban space is increasingly privatized, the public realm is a tenuous concept. New temporary artistic interventions by Jenifer K. Wofford and Constance Hockaday lead us into new places, playfully address the boundaries surrounding us, and make visible the fragile publics we live within.

At a moment when our right to gather has been dramatically eroded, staging an absurd public spectacle can be a radical act. In *MaxiPad: Templum de Mysteriis*, **Jenifer K. Wofford** and her collaborators transform a public rose garden in Oakland with a carnivalesque ritual gathering. With a flair for pageantry, the artist and her team playfully consider the ways in which we attempt to create a sense of safety in public. The cast of costumed characters invites the public to join them in a series of rites and ceremonies in a classical homage to issues of gender and vulnerability in public space.

In her wide-ranging practice, Wofford creates camp spectacles that hilariously deconstruct systems of power. Her performative collaborations with the trio collective Mail Order Brides/M.O.B. enact a hyper-feminine drag drawing heavily on Filipina stereotypes. Her absurdist performances, paintings and installations point to the ways we perform and confront neocolonialism, class, race, and gender, and occasionally incorporate giant cockroaches and portable toilets.

**Constance Hockaday** makes collaborative, participatory projects on the water. For *You Make a Better Wall Than a Window: The Tour*, Hockaday reflects upon our relationship to waterways in urban space. Visitors will join the artist on a ferry ride across San Francisco Bay as she narrates the evolution of our relationship to the ports, discussing contrasts between maritime law and laws that apply on land, and investigating the territories and boundaries we create for ourselves.

As a sailor and artist whose work is based on the ocean, her research closely examines how government bodies and institutions have come to create barriers to the accessibility of the water. Recent projects have been rooted in collaborations with working class harbor communities – traditionally, groups of outsiders on land who come together to support each other on the water in spite of the challenges of port authority regulations and the financial demands of boat upkeep.

*Public Works: Off-Site* is curated by Valerie Imus and organized in partnership with the Mills College Art Museum in conjunction with the exhibition *Public Works: Artists' Interventions 1970s—Now*, curated by Christian L. Frock and Tanya Zimbaro, on view September 16 – December 13, 2015 at the museum.

Generous support for Southern Exposure is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Fleishhacker Foundation, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, The Graue Family Foundation, The Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Kimball Family Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, The San Francisco Arts Commission Grant Program, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Violet World Foundation, The Zellerbach Family Foundation and Southern Exposure's members and donors. Support for *Public Works: Artists' Interventions 1970s—Now* at the Mills College Art Museum is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

#### EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

- What: Jenifer K. Wofford, *MaxiPad: Templum de Mysteriis*  
Jenifer K. Wofford and her collaborators transform a public rose garden in Oakland with a carnivalesque ritual gathering. The cast of costumed characters invites the public to join them in a series of rites and ceremonies in a classical homage to issues of gender and vulnerability in public space.
- When: Sunday, November 8, 2015, 3:00 – 4:00 PM
- Location: Morcom Rose Garden  
700 Jean Street, Oakland
- Cost: FREE, no RSVP necessary
- What: Constance Hockaday, *You Make a Better Wall Than a Window: The Tour*  
Join Constance Hockaday on a ferry ride across San Francisco Bay to contemplate water as public space, our evolving relationship to the ports, and the territories and boundaries we create for ourselves.
- When: Sunday, December 6, 2015, 4:45 – 7:00 PM
- Location: San Francisco Bay Ferry Terminal  
99 The Embarcadero, San Francisco
- Cost: \$15 covers round trip ferry fare and headset rental
- Tickets: Tickets go on sale starting November 6 [via Eventbrite](#); limited to 50 participants

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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.