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Design by Kimberly Varella

Robby Herbst's New New Games culminates in a large-scale public art event this June

Tournament of Games

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Jackson Park Playground, San Francisco

FREE and open to the public

May 12, 2016, San Francisco, CA – As the culminating event of Robby Herbst's *New New Games* project, Southern Exposure presents the *Tournament of Games*, a large-scale public art event on June 18, 2016 at Jackson Park Playground in San Francisco.

New New Games is a year-long project involving participatory events, talks, research, and art-making. Herbst was the 2014 recipient of the SoEx Off-Site Graue Award, a \$15,000 award and opportunity for artists to realize new public art projects in the Bay Area.

Tournament of Games will be a participatory event that reflects upon the resonance of 1970s era humanism and the attendant New Games Movement, founded by Stewart Brand. Asking the question, "Who defines the games we as a society play?", Herbst has organized a festival of classic new games and newer new games reflecting on current forms of labor and leisure – including Gig Economy, Twitter Uber Grinder LYFT, Grabster/Sharing Economy, and \$Earthball. Participants will join group activities reflective of both the humanist past and post-humanist present. The event will be facilitated by play leaders Sarah Brin, Keith Hennessy, and Brontez Purnell.

In conjunction with the project, Southern Exposure has produced a printed publication featuring commissioned essays by Robby Herbst, Valerie Imus, John Elrick and Will Payne, as well as contemporary

game prompts by Herbst and others. The publication can be purchased at Southern Exposure and will also be available on-site at the *Tournament of Games* on June 18.

Herbst has worked with Southern Exposure's Artists in Education program to develop an arts curriculum based around the *New New Games* project. Under the auspices of Southern Exposure's new Contemporary Classrooms initiative, youth from local partner high schools have explored and questioned their own ideas of labor and leisure through participatory games and reflection, and will have the opportunity to attend the *Tournament of Games* on June 18.

As part of *New New Games*, Southern Exposure has partnered with Headlands Center for the Arts to present *New Games Re:Play*, a public program on June 26 at Headlands about the New Games Movement in the original landscape of its 1973 debut.

New New Games is made possible by a generous grant from the Graue Family Foundation.

ABOUT ROBBY HERBST

Robby Herbst is an artist, writer and radical cultural organizer based in Los Angeles. He is a co-founder and former editor of the critical art collective the *Journal of Aesthetics & Protest*, and the instigator of the site-specific critical landscape projects of the Llano Del Rio Collective. His writing and artworks engage with contemporary and historic experiments in socio-political aesthetics.

His solo exhibitions and performances have been presented at Dumbo Arts Center (NY), Human Resources (LA), Machine Project (LA) and David Patton Projects (LA). He was a columnist for KCET's Artbound, and has written for Afterall, East Of Borneo, and other art and activist publications and books. He co-edited *Failure! Experiments in Aesthetic and Social Practice* (JOAAP Press, 2008, with Nicole Antebi and Colin Dickey) and was the co-executive editor of *An Atlas of Radical Cartography* (Bhagat and Mogel, JOAAP Press, 2008).

Herbst's artwork has been reviewed in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *LA Weekly*. He was a recipient of a 2007 Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for essays exploring the relationship between social practice and political protest.

ABOUT THE GRAUE AWARD

New New Games is the third iteration of the SoEx Off-Site Graue Award. In 2009, The Graue Family Foundation invested in Southern Exposure's growing public art initiative, SoEx Off-Site, through the creation of the Graue Award. The award offers an opportunity for local, national, and international artists to propose ideas leading to the development and presentation of an ambitious public art project in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2011, SoEx presented *Manifest Destiny!*, a project by Jenny Chapman & Mark A Riegelman II, on view in downtown San Francisco from November 2011 through October 2012. In 2013, Graue Award grantee Liz Magic Laser presented her public project *The Living Newspaper: Extra Extra*, staging public performances inspired by daily newspaper photographs and headlines in newspaper kiosks in downtown San Francisco.

ABOUT SOEX OFF-SITE

Founded in 2006, SoEx Off-Site commissions and presents temporary new work by visual artists that intervenes and interacts in the social and political spheres beyond the space of the gallery. SoEx supports and encourages these practices as few venues support emerging artists working in the public realm.

Through SoEx Off-Site, Southern Exposure encourages artists to work experimentally in public space, enabling artists to develop new works that could not otherwise be realized and generating a critical dialog about emerging creative practices.

Southern Exposure has commissioned and presented public projects with a wide range of artists including Will Brown, David Buuck, Jenny Chapman & Mark A Riegelmann II, Futurefarmers, Liz Glynn, Asher Hartman, Cliff Hengst, Constance Hockaday, Instant Coffee, Packard Jennings, Natalie Jeremijenko, Helena Keeffe, Liz Magic Laser, Neighborhood Public Radio, Adam Overton, Nathaniel Parsons, Kate Pocrass/Mundane Journeys, Preemptive Media, Rebar, Red76, The San Francisco Bureau of Urban Secrets, Allison Smith, Bruce Tomb, Lee Walton, Jenifer K. Wofford, and more.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *Tournament of Games*
A large-scale public art event that will take the form of a festival of classic new games and newer new games reflecting on current forms of labor and leisure. Participants will join group activities reflective of both the humanist past and post-humanist present. The event marks the culmination of *New New Games*, a year-long project involving participatory events, talks, research, and art-making.

When: June 18, 2016, 12:00 – 5:00 PM
Location: Jackson Park Playground, on 17th St. at the foot of Potrero Hill, 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.