

## ***Some Assembly Required***

**February 8th - March 5th, 2014**

**Opening reception: Saturday, February 8th 7-9pm  
at Open Source Gallery, 306 17th St., Brooklyn**

**“You didn’t build that”**

**–Barack Obama, July 13, 2012**

The curatorial initiative Fuse Works, which exhibits and promotes artists multiples, presents a new group of editions with the emphasis on artists “kits”. Requiring participation rather than simple observation, most of the works in this show must be cut, pasted, cultivated, filled in, filled out or otherwise completed by the collector. Some are useful objects in a very literal sense, while some propose use as philosophical objects – to be employed as a part of one’s cognitive tool kit. Of course kits have art historical precedence, from Duchamp’s Box in a Valise to Fluxus boxes and Flux-kits. But the impulse to create work that is used and/or completed by the viewer speaks to the aspiration of contemporary art to embody forms of communication beyond the passively visual. At the same time, the creation of artworks that come to life as they are manipulated and altered by those other-than-the-artist undermines the tendencies toward rarification and commodity entrenched in today’s art.

Some Assembly Required includes Tom Burtonwood, Celeste Fichter, Chuck Jones, Christina Kelly, Mariano Chavez, Piers Watson, Glen Einbinder, John Marriott, Gary Kachadourian, Cadence Giersbach, Sara Bouchard and James Leonard.

Tom Burtonwood’s involvement in the DIY 3d printing movement makes him particularly suited to the creating works of this nature. His “Candy Dispenser Sphere Prototype” is a 3d printed clip which can be used to assemble manufacture plastic toys (in this case Pez dispensers) into modular 3d sculptures.

Both Christina Kelly’s and John Marriott’s works require careful nurturing and cultivation. Marriott’s “The Bruce Nauman One Hundred Live and Die Herb Garden” is a pocket kitchen herb garden which features the image of Nauman’s 1984 neon sculpture. Christina Kelly’s “Plant Inventory 216” is an ongoing project to distribute the seeds of Brooklyn native corn species free of charge. During the run of the exhibition visitors may take away seed packets to plant their own patch of Sehsapsing, a Lenape Blue Flour Corn. The packet contains a return envelope so that participants can return a donation of some of the corn kernels they’ve grown in order to keep the project going.

The work of both Glen Einbinder and Gary Kachadourian must be cut according to instructions and pasted together. Kachadourian creates suburban tableaus based on drawings of parking lots, drive thrus, bus shelters and other easily overlooked details of the built environment. His “Apartment Dumpster with Sofa” invites the assembly of a scene of blight as a 1/32 scale model, training attention and precision on an otherwise mundane example of suburban neglect. Einbinder’s “Isomorphs” is a 3d crystalline structure made of paper which, when assembled, illustrates pairs of species which form symbiotic relationships in nature.

Peter Feigenbaum has long been busy assembling a kit to represent the complex social fallout that is urban blight. His “Trainset Ghetto” project involves the creation of miniature versions of bits and pieces of urban landscapes in states of decay and return to nature. For the current exhibition he offers a shard of that landscape “Jersey” a miniature crumbling jersey barrier already tagged with graffiti.



Christina Kelly, *Plant Inventory 216* (detail), 2014



John Marriott, *The Bruce Nauman One Hundred Live and Die Herb Garden*, 2014



Gary Kachadourian, *Apartment Dumpster with Sofa* (detail) from *Four 1/32 Scale Scenarios*



Peter Feigenbaum, *Jersey* (two examples), 2014

Celeste Fichter's multiples are often both participatory and performative. Her contribution to "Some Assembly Required" is a stencil, a packet of dirt and specific instructions for creating "Ground" a gritty, playful text piece. In a similar spirit Cadence Giersbach offers "Outline" to be completed by the collector in one of two ways using a no. 2 pencil to emphasize either positive or negative space.

Chuck Jones' kit, "Spatial Prop Therapy Toolkit" mimics the self-help product genre by offering a couple's therapy visualization kit which includes a pair of matched "Visualization Communication Guides", a pair of "throwing blocks" emblazoned with a Latin inscription all delivered in a tote bag printed with the text "We Are Having Problems".

James Leonard's "Winter Codex" offers the viewer a chance to browse through hundreds of index cards on which he has typed, on one side, forms of divination and, on the other, simple descriptions of them. The result is at once a simple, though extensive, set of flashcards, however perusing them at length can induce a meditative state in which to renew one's relationship to the metaphysical.

Sara Bouchard's "Weather Box" is a tiny hand-cranked music box that plays a punch card which interprets recent weather data as a polyphonic musical score.

For "Nowhere to Run", Mariano Chavez cast the back of a statue of the Virgin Mary and doubled it, creating a ghostly but familiar figure. It's menacing magical quality would fit easily on the shelves of a botanica, where it's usefulness may be a matter of faith.

Piers Watson's "Spectra", a wall mounted sculpture of archaic-looking hash marks cast in bronze, is a tool inspired by early attempts at the measurement of the universe. During the course of the exhibition Watson will lead a workshop in the luted-crucible method of bronze casting--the process by which he produced this enigmatic sculpture.

For further information and high res images contact [service@fuse-works.com](mailto:service@fuse-works.com). All of the works will be available at [www.fuse-works.com](http://www.fuse-works.com)

Open Source Gallery is located at 306 17th Street, South Slope, Brooklyn. Gallery hours are Thursday: 11am-2pm, Friday/Saturday: 2pm-6pm and by appointment. Press contacts: Amanda Alic (Fuse Works) 718-877-5712. Monika Wuhrer (Open Source) 646 279 3969.



Celeste Fichter, *Ground*, 2014



James Leonard, *Winter Codex*, 2014



Piers Watson, *Spectra*, 2014



Mariano Chavez, *Nowhere to Run*, 2012



Sara Bouchard, *Weather Box*, 2013