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# FORM+CONTENT

210 N 2nd St • Mpls, MN 55401 • 612-436-1151 • Thur-Sat 12-6 pm

## GALLERY

For immediate release

### **UNBUNDLING THE HOUSING CRISIS** **investigations • interpolations • interventions • instigations**

#### **What**

This thematic exhibition brings together artists, architects, designers, scientists, and writers in response to the housing foreclosure crisis and its effects on communities and families. Curated by architect Jay H. Isenberg, AIA and artist Lynda Monick-Isenberg.

#### **When**

Thursday, July 30 – Saturday, September 5, 2009  
Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment  
Free and open to the public.

#### **Opening Reception**

Saturday, August 1, 2009 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm  
Free and open to the public.

#### **Where**

Form + Content Gallery  
Whitney Square Building  
210 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 104  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

#### **Info**

Gallery: 612/436-1151 or Howard Oransky 651/592-1841  
<http://www.formandcontent.org>  
formandcontent@gmail.com

#### **Description**

Implosion of the residential mortgage industry transformed traditional neighborhood fabrics and exurban development tracts into landscapes of home foreclosures. This affected all social and economic strata to a critical point of near institutional financial collapse. In response, exhibition curators Jay Isenberg and Lynda Monick-Isenberg invited creative teams to “unbundle” the housing crisis from the usual interpretations, analytic methodologies and solutions typically presented by institutional orthodoxy. This exhibition offers new ways of thinking about systemic problems, just as their 2007 exhibition *Dialogue on the Wall* did about the separation wall between Israel/Palestine.

The exhibition curators invited cross-disciplinary creative teams to engage in acts of civic engagement by addressing without prescription the de-stabilizing conditions brought out by the housing foreclosure crisis and its effects on communities and families. Vacant properties, displacement of children and families, borders and cultural identity issues, green space and amenity deprivation, resource, education and job challenges, commercial disinvestment and environmental degradation are all issues underpinning this social crisis. The curators invited the teams to reflect, reclaim, redo, rebuild, reveal, revise, revolt, report, and respond.

The exhibition promotes voices and ideas from directions and sources generally not found at the institutional policy making table. The gallery provides a forum for displaying the result of unorthodox collaborations with work that ranges from the practical to the poetic, from the focused to the visionary. *Unbundling the Housing Crisis* includes drawings, illustrations, models, visual and conceptual art, constructions, manifestos and installations.

### **Exhibition Projects**

The exhibition consists of 8 thematic projects, listed here is summary form with project team members. Detailed project abstracts may be obtained by contacting the gallery at [formandcontent@gmail.com](mailto:formandcontent@gmail.com).

#### ***Project #1***

##### ***Money on the Block***

*Mapping neighborhood financial flows in the Hawthorne area of Minneapolis*

Gabriel Cheifetz, filmmaker

Aleksandra Stancevic, graphic designer

#### ***Project #2***

##### ***Excerpts from a Field Guide***

*Plants, animals, and geology of a foreclosed property in Minneapolis*

Adam Regn Arvidson, ASLA, landscape architect

Doug Mensing, restoration ecologist

Bruce Wilson, botanical and wildlife illustrator

#### ***Project #3***

##### ***Full House***

*2D and 3D constructions that narrate a story based on housing "values"*

Ralph Nelson, architect and Don Vu, designer

John Grider, Jeanine Kindlien, and Mike Fitzsimmons, artists

Julia Klatt Singer, writer

#### ***Project #4***

##### ***Home Less Home***

*Design for a temporary housing enclosure that can be used anywhere*

Wynne Yelland, Paul Neseth, Randy Walker, architects

Paul Guthrie, lighting and video designer  
Wing Young Huie and Robert Meier, photographers  
Kevin Nelson, tent/fabric designer

**Project #5**

**Green Transformer Zones**

*5 Great Ideas & 5 Great Challenges the World Needs to Address™*

Jerry Allan, architect and educator

Georgiana Allan, designer

Joel Barker, futurist, author and lecturer

Michael Martin, President of Music Matter and environmental advocate

Forrest Russell, landscape architect and property development manager

Beth Russell, educator and consultant

Austen Cargill, Ph.D., scientist

Red Seive, retired creative director General Mills

Peter Vujovich, President, Vujovich Design Build & Designer of the Idea

Lance Holthusen, former Director, Minnesota Science Museum

Kevin Bryne, MCAD professor and community sustainability expert

**Project #6**

**gen(h)ome**

*From a pool of slime to a McMansion in only 3,700,000,000 years!*

John Dwyer, architect, Kurt Gough, Jackie Millea, designers

Court Loeffler, Colin Oglesbay, designers

Mark Borrello Ph.D and Assistant Professor, History of Science

Peet Fetsch, graphic designer

**Project #7**

**Eutectic autarkies and urbano-tectonic transformations of the derivative(s) landscape**

*Causes, results, impacts, systems - how do we avoid the hole again?*

Antonio Rosell, urban planner and civil engineer

Isaac Bros, urban designer, visual artist

Bill Lindeke, philosopher, geographer

Matthew Lang, videographer

Natalie Collins, MPH, policy maker, public health practitioner

**Project #8**

**Ghosts and Shadows**

*Tracing the ghosts of destroyed homes and neighborhoods, the shadows of families, and the courage of hope*

Jay H Isenberg, architect, co-curator

Lynda Monick-Isenberg, artist, professor, co-curator

Robert Feyereisen and Susi Strothman, designer/owners, Feyereisen Studios

Leslie Frost, Executive Director, Families Moving Forward

**Press Image Credit**

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(image is on the enclosed CD)

**Sponsorship**

This Exhibition is partially funded by Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Family Housing Fund.

**Mission Statement**

Form + Content Gallery will nurture diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form + Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways. Suggestions and ideas for cultural partnerships and programs are welcome.