

Alternative Art Spaces on the Web

Zhou B. Center	Chicago	IL	www.zbcenter.org/
----------------	---------	----	--

About

The Zhou B. Center is an arts center located in the heart of the Bridgeport neighborhood where the Zhou Brothers have lived for more than a decade. The ZBCenter is housed in an 87,000 square foot building on the corner of 35th and Morgan in Chicago. The ZBC currently houses the Oskar Friedl Gallery, 33 Collective Gallery, Martin Bernstein Jewelry and Fine Art; Nick Depeder Painting Studio; CRN Fine Art Services, Martin Soto Gallery & Studio, Jeff McClendon Studio, Chicago Composers Forum, and Stephen Mathewson/Buildingscape.

The vision for this arts complex is the result of the efforts by the Zhou Brothers to create a multifaceted arts facility that will soon house a 17,000 sq. foot exhibition space for contemporary art; an International Art Academy modeled after the Salzburg program; and Professional spaces housed on the third floor that include the above listed galleries and arts professionals.

baseKamp	Philadelphia	PA	www.basekamp.com/
----------	--------------	----	--

About

Established 1998, basekamp is a non-commercial studio and exhibition space whose primary focus is to participate in the creation, facilitation and promotion of large scale collaborative projects by contemporary artists.

Philadelphia is an example of a city whose visual artworld is currently in the process of self-definition. We have seen this as an opportunity to use Philadelphia as a home base to invite domestic and international collaborative groups in a joint experiment to develop new models of relations within overlapping art communities. our particular approach may not match practices within more established art worlds where functioning mechanisms to support challenging contemporary art are already set more firmly in place. But it is still through a wider, less place-specific dialogue about challenging conventional artistic roles and relationships that basekamp adopts alternative working models, and continues to offer its facilities as a platform for collaborative projects.

Project Example: The Hegemonic Bar

Collaboration of basekamp members & friends; 1999, BaseKamp gallery

The exhibition was named after, and based on, neo-Gramscian hegemony theory. Using this as a departure point, the baseKamp created the Hegemonic Bar, with the consumption of alcohol as representative of class struggle. Played like a three-dimensional game of life, the Hegemonic Bar was an interactive installation along with instructions, rules, alcohol, & many people.

The structure consisted of three platforms signifying class stratification into lower, middle and upper classes. This was accomplished through a variety of visual and auditory metaphors. The platforms increased in elevation as they decreased in square footage, each color-coded with its appropriate decor, music, drink, and price. The lower bar was designated by country and hard rock music, pretzels and beer; the middle bar featured soft rock music, cheese and wine; and the upper bar was a symphony of classical music, martinis and Godiva.

The ability of guests to participate in each of the bars was determined by a random amount of phony money distributed at the door. The majority of people were 'classed' as either middle or lower income, while fewer guests received enough money to frequent the upper-class bar.

As the night wore on, the consumption of alcohol lessened the inhibitions of the participants. This

helped to foster a more playful and creative approach to stereotypical class roles and manifest the Saturnalian role reversal sought by the installation.



Soap Factory	Minneapolis	MN	www.soapfactory.org/
--------------	-------------	----	--

About

The Soap Factory is dedicated to the production, presentation, and production of emerging contemporary practice across the visual arts. Committed to experimentation and risk-taking, The Soap Factory offers audiences a real and immediate experience of the arts, and encourages a wider understanding of and appreciation for artists and their work.

The Soap Factory fills a crucial niche in the local arts community by providing unique gallery space for emerging artists. Through the presentation of provocative, exceptional art in a wide range of media and forms, we create an arena for education and interaction between artists and non-artists. We provide opportunities for the public to encounter the aesthetics, cultures, and visions reflected in a variety of artists' work.

Founded in 1988 by local artists as one of the first Twin Cities organizations to regularly provide a venue exclusively devoted to new and emerging visual artists, The Soap Factory is now recognized as one of the premier exhibition spaces in the Midwest. The Soap Factory fills a crucial niche in the local arts community by providing unique gallery space for emerging artists. Through the presentation of provocative, exceptional art in a wide range of media and forms, we create an arena for education and interaction between artists and non-artists. We provide opportunities for the public to encounter the aesthetics, cultures, and visions reflected in a variety of artists' work.

Founded in 1988 by local artists as one of the first Twin Cities organizations to regularly provide a venue exclusively devoted to new and emerging visual artists, The Soap Factory is now recognized as one of the premier exhibition spaces in the Midwest.

Project Example: The Art Shanty Project

Artists created an artists' community on a frozen lake in Plymouth, Minnesota. The Art Shanty Projects were part art gallery, part residency and part sculpture park, inspired by the tradition of ice fishing and ice fishing houses used in the Minnesota winter. Taking advantage of the freedom of the frozen lake surface without building codes or a public art governing body, the only constraints on artist's projects were the physics of frozen water and the harsh environment of the open ice.

Twenty-eight Art Shanties, projects and performances were realized on the lake. The projects

ranged from a group of ladders reaching up from the ice surface, to a Shanty that served as a rear projection screen for drive-in movies. Running from mid January to mid-February, 1000 visitors braved the arctic chill as temperatures ranged from -12 to 50 F to watch movies, see art and participate in activities from woodwork to yoga to karaoke.

In the summer of 2005, The Art Shanties will be revived in a unique environment in The Soap Factory. Artists will be constrained by floors, ceilings and doors in the 12,000 sq.ft Victorian warehouse rather than the 39,500,000 sq.ft of Medicine Lake. In high summer, with temperatures ranging from 70-100 F, The Art Shanties once again are re-presented along with the performances and activities of the deep winter.



Space 538	Portland	ME	www.space538.org/
-----------	----------	----	--

About
 SPACE is a nonprofit, artist run organization in the heart of the arts district in Portland, Maine. SPACE provides an alternative to formalized exhibition venues, showcasing unconventional and non-commercial works in all media. SPACE encourages greater participation in the arts by providing a flexible and accessible environment.

MAIN GALLERY. The main gallery is a multi-function room of approximately 2500 square feet with 14 foot-high walls and an unusual vaulted brick ceiling. Artists working in all media are welcome to propose solo and group exhibitions for the main gallery. Shows are generally one or two months in length. As SPACE is a multi-function venue, preferable consideration will be given to proposals that allow artwork to remain installed while the gallery transforms for music, readings, kids events, etc.

STOREFRONT GALLERY. Every day, billions of people pass by our Congress Street window, located between the Maine College of Art and the L.L.Bean store in the heart of Portland's vibrant arts district. The storefront gallery can be curated independently of our interior main gallery, and offers a unique opportunity to bring non-traditional artwork to the public and into the street.

ENTRANCE GALLERY. The entrance gallery is ideal for smaller solo exhibitions and installations. Consisting of two large walls (one measuring 122" wide by 96" tall, the other measuring 200" wide by 138" tall), in the front room of our gallery, which can be curated separately from our main gallery and storefront window.



Instant Coffee

Toronto
Canada

www.instantcoffee.org/

About

Instant Coffee is a service oriented artist collective that initiates and facilitates the creation and execution of artist's projects.

Project Example: Re-play; Curated by Catherine Crowston and Barbara Fischer

Re-play focuses on the role of popular music in contemporary Canadian art from the 1970s on. In particular, it will explore the ways in which music has emerged as a model for sociability in the mediums of film, video performance, and installation – a way of formulating immersion in (and perhaps even differentiation from) a collective sense of being. This is manifest through improvisation and karaoke, through the interpretive re-mixing and sampling of material and through individualized expression of collective longings.

Re-play addresses the active and/or passive relations we form with popular music – “how we create the soundtrack of our lives.² Whether realized in the form of the collective “band” or “group” or whether enjoyed individually, music has a way of realizing the relation between the individual and society – not least of all through its easy dissemination and repetition through records, CDs, DJs, the radio and television. It seems that, for this very reason, music has emerged as an urgent, or acutely relevant “medium” for contemporary artists around the world.



Red76

Portland

OR

www.red76.com/

About

Red76's goal is to provide new and challenging ideas and frameworks in which to display contemporary art and thought, as well as trying to devise means to incorporate these works and ideas into the daily lives of the general public. Red76 was formed in February of 2000 in Portland, Oregon by Sam Gould and Jef Drawbaugh. Red76 serves as the name for collaboratively based projects initiated and designed by Sam Gould. Since its inception Red76 has curated, presented, and enacted more than 30 exhibitions, events, and actions, as well as 8cd's and an arts/culture journal entitled Dis-connect.

Project Example: The Laundry Lectures series

In the Fall of 2003 Sam and Laura were sitting in the Polish Laundromat (Laundry/Prania) around the corner from the then Red76 headquarters in Chicago, IL. They got to thinking about places you wait in. Places wherein their function is mainly sitting around for something to happen. From this the Laundry Lecture Series was initiated.

Why not set up a series of talks in your local Laundromat? Why even ask the owners? We didn't. As long as you are a paying customer what's to stop you from gathering you and your friends to talk about whatever you'd like, as the socks get lost, and your favorite pink t-shirt gets frayed one more time in the dryer? Nothing, we say. Go ahead, get your friends together, feel free to be open and honest wherever you are. Speak your mind. Share your thoughts: in Laundromats, on checkout lines, and so many other wonderful shared-use venues all over the world.



16 Beaver Group

New York

NY

www.16beavergroup.org/**About**

16Beaver is the address of a space initiated/run by artists to create and maintain an ongoing platform for the presentation, production, and discussion of a variety of artistic/cultural/economic/political projects. It is the point of many departures/arrivals.

RESIDENTS. 16BEAVER is an independent self-sustaining project. The Residents of the space maintain the space by using it as their place of work/work. Resident Artists include: Ania Soliman, Janet Rossi, Rachel Rowberry, Sally Boon, Rich Lee, Ayreen Anastas, Boe Hess, Rene Gabri, Peter Lueders, Berry Behrendt.

MONDAY NIGHTS @ 16BEAVER. Since 1999, the Reading Group at 16Beaver has organized presentations, readings, discussions, screenings, and panels with/by artists, curators, thinkers, writers, and activists. Monday nights are an evening to share time and generate discussions, links, ideas. Meetings usually begin at 7pm and the location is almost always at 16Beaver Street, 5th Floor.

Project Example: Building a Critical Public for the Biotech Century; 8 short talks on bio-art, biotech, and bio-politics

CAVS at MIT - located on the 3rd floor of 265 Massachusetts Avenue, next to the MIT Museum.
Who: Klare Allen, Gene Benson, Sujatha Byravan , Beatriz da Costa, Jonathan King, Eugene Thacker , Nato Thompson, Charles Weiner, Faith Wilding

This event developed out of a small-scale public discussion organized by 16Beaver Group in the weeks following the arrest of Steve Kurtz in May of this year. As we have done in our short history as a space/group, we have often linked our work and interests with social, political, ethical questions. We have also more recently been attempting to create the framework for more rigorous or formalized discussion contexts, which can be in the format of lectures, workshops, or in this case modest sized symposium / teach-in.

The invitation to organize something more expansive around the questions raised by the CAE case came via Larissa Harris, Assistant Director at MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies. This event presents us with an opportunity to see the Kurtz arrest and CAE's work as a symptom of a larger set of longstanding and emerging biopolitical questions. The event is also our collective and negotiated attempt in using the resources in the Boston/MIT area and the loose network of people around or interested in CAE to help build an already developing discussion among artists, scientists, thinkers, and activists.



Buddy	Chicago	IL	www.lumpen.com/buddy/yes.html
-------	---------	----	--

About

Buddy is an artist run space, an effort in creating room for experimental music, performance, workshops, discussions, and exhibitions. Our goal is to foster a habitat and cultural space for emerging accidents, radical culture and intentional community organizing.

Project Example: 20x20x20 - Show and Tell for Grown Ups

20X20X20 is a regular event brought to you by Lumpen. Basically it's show and tell for grown ups. Think of it as a way to to share ideas, projects, unusual information and personal obsessions. We invite fantastic people to share their passions, You get to meet them. The format is simple. 20 people are chosen to participate. They each get a chance to share 20 slides or digital files for 20 seconds a piece. That's approximately 7 minutes of action per person! The presentations are done one after another with a break in between.



Dept. of Safety	Anacortes	WA	www.departmentofsafety.com/
-----------------	-----------	----	--

About

The primary goal of the Department of Safety is to continue to facilitate the "artistic yen" sans stereotypical notions of purely for-profit capitalism while creating a sustainable artistic environment / community. In the words of Bret Lunsford, "Call it an Art-Business, The People will understand that even if that is not necessarily your first aim." There once was this theorist named Plato. He had definite notions of a utopian vision of the way his "ideal state" would run. We are—by no means—attempting to create an elitist utopia. We just want to sustain ourselves while creating art in community.

The idea of this unique space is to provide a place where artists can interact, inspire, critique, and give back to each other and the community-at-large by creating art. We all live in various communities in which we create and decipher meaning. Our immediate live/work/art community, the Department of Safety, provides a place where communities can come together, interact, discuss ideas, formulate manifestos, and generally enjoy the company of others. While local community ties include Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, and the Skagit Valley area, we warmly invite other communities to create with us.

- Resources**
- Recording Studio
 - Darkroom
 - Zine Library
 - Art Collection



33 Collective Gallery	Chicago	IL	www.33collective.com
-----------------------	---------	----	--

About

33 Collective Gallery is an artist owned gallery that focuses on emerging and established contemporary artists. 33 Collective promotes the work of innovative artists through gallery and

internet exhibitions. The gallery is a forum for artists to come together and engage in the exchange of concepts and ideas through their visual art.

33 Collective is located on the third floor of the future home of the Zhou B Center. The newly remodeled 80,000 sq.ft. building in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood will house a vibrant mix of galleries, artist studios, and other art related businesses.

Project Example: Annual Self-Portrait Exhibition

This will be our largest exhibition this year and will feature artwork from 50 established and emerging artists. The Self-Portrait Exhibition will include painting, drawing, sculpture, photo, collage and video as mediums for artists to explore the representation of the self.

