

EXHIBITION

DISSIDENT FUTURES

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OCTOBER 18, 2013 -
FEBRUARY 02, 2014
Downstairs Galleries



OVERVIEW

Dissident Futures

Oct 18, 2013–Feb 2, 2014

Downstairs Galleries

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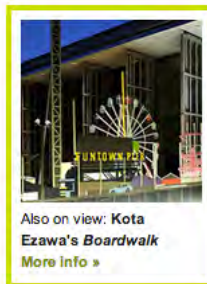
Dissident Futures is an investigation into possible alternative futures, particularly those that question or overturn conventional notions of innovation in biological, social, environmental, and technological structures. Either through active engagement with future studies or through intuitive investigation, the artists and designers in *Dissident Futures* envision a future that expands beyond our conventional expectations. Loosely structured around three thematic strands—the utopian, the speculative, and the pragmatic—the exhibition furthers our understanding of how artists are addressing potentiality and the unknown, from the most desired future to the most feared. Basim Magdy's sequenced slide projection featuring spectral images of the volcanic region of Spain's Lanzarote island as a possible future memory, David Huffman's paintings of wandering traumanauts, Melanie Gilligan's experimental multi-episode science fiction drama where personal needs are inextricably linked to exchange value, and Revital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen's object designs that maximize the movements of individual factory workers are examples of how this exhibition resets possible ways to approach the future.

Dissident Futures explores a series of fundamental questions: How do artists imagine and question how power links innovation and the future when considering wide-ranging shifts, from biological expansion to space technology? How can artists' empathetic approaches to curiosity and doubt contribute to the larger field of future thinking? What do artists contribute to envisioning real and speculative futures?

The exhibition features an international roster of artists working in video and film, photography, painting, installation, sculpture, and performance, who engage wide-ranging topics including: the occult, science fiction, and outer space; afro-futurism; architecture and the environment, technology, the nature of human feeling, and language; mapping and atemporality; and post-apocalypse scenarios.

Participating artists are: Neil Beloufa, Heman Chong and Anthony Marcellini, Peter Coffin, Revital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen, Brody Condon, Future Cities Lab, Melanie Gilligan, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Shane Hope, David Huffman, Paul Laffoley, Basim Magdy, Dan Mills, The Otolith Group, Trevor Paglen, Katie Paterson, Kamau Amu Patton, Connie Samaras, and Cauleen Smith.

Dissident Futures is curated by Betti-Sue Hertz, YBCA's Director of Visual Arts. It is accompanied by an exhibition catalogue edited by Betti-Sue Hertz and Ceci Moss, YBCA's Visual Arts Assistant Curator.



Also on view: **Kota Ezawa's Boardwalk**
[More info »](#)

Artworks shown on this page:

Shane Hope,
atomic_kill_threads, 2012,
Archival pigment print, 48" x 72",
Courtesy of the artist

Basim Magdy, *An Abstract Reality Leaves You Lonely in The Spotlight*, 2010, Spray paint and acrylic on paper, 13 x 16 15/16 in., Courtesy of Marisa Newman Projects, New York.

Brody Condon, *Future Gestalt*, 2012, 40:24 min., Audio-visual/Time-based media,
"Smoke" (1967) © Tony Smith Estate/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Courtesy of Kadist Art Foundation

Cauleen Smith, *Through the Ark Over The Rainbow Secret Life*, 2012, Mixed-media Installation, HD Video, 19:01 min, Courtesy of the artist

David Huffman, *Sideshow*, 2008, Acrylic, oil, glitter, collage on paper, 52 x 120 in., Courtesy of the artist



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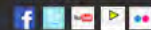
[GALLERY HOURS AND ADMISSION](#)

October 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

GALLERY HOURS

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Opening Night Party Oct 18, 2013 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Grand Lobby

\$12 in Advance / \$15 at the Door / YBCA Members and YBCA:You FREE
Come celebrate the opening of *Dissident Futures* with an evening of live music, DJs, and performance. Throughout the night, DJs Nihar, Tristes Tropiques, Jason P and Smac from San Francisco's premier monthly dance event, Haçeteria, will play the electronic dance music rooted in the rave era, including House, Acid, Techno, New Beat, and Electronic Body Music, with visuals from the Haçeteria AV team. At 8 PM, *Dissident Futures* exhibiting artist Kamau Amu Patton will join Los Angeles-based artist Suzy Poling as "Antenna Prism Mirror" in an ongoing collaborative project exploring light, sound, video, film, and performance. Patton and Poling will come together on a new work based upon their mutual interest in futuristic landscapes, cityscapes, and the evolution of human communities on spaceship earth. At 9 PM, the funky, dark electro project kit n c.l.a.w.s. (Kit Clayton and Brian D. Hock) will continue the dance party with beats produced through their minimal, all hardware setup.



Artists in Conversation Oct 19, 2013 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Large Conference Room

FREE with gallery admission

Join us for an informative conversation with *Dissident Futures* artists Revital Cohen, Shane Hope, David Huffman, Jason Kelly Johnson of Future Cities Lab, Basim Magdy, Dan Mills, Kamau Amu Patton, and Connie Samaras.

ARTIST BIO

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Born in 1956 in Waterloo, New York, Dan Mills is Director of the Museum of Art and Lecturer in the Humanities at Bates College. He obtained his MFA from Northern Illinois University in 1981 and his BFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1978. In his work, Mills re-imagines world maps in such a way that alludes to the artifice of all mapping systems, and simultaneously highlights the imperial power and history hidden within them. Serving as a critique on geographic boundaries and nationalist ambitions, Mills only uses maps of the U.S. and other parts of the world that emerged from a history of colonization.

Mills exhibits extensively, with recent solo shows at Chicago Culture Center, Chicago (2012); Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago (2012); MetCap Bank, Chicago (2012); Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Tianjin (2009–2010); Sherry Frumkin Gallery, Santa Monica (2009), in addition to numerous group exhibitions throughout the United States. Mills published *The US Future States Atlas* (Perceval Press, Santa Monica) in 2009, and was included in Katherine Harmon's *The Map as Art: Contemporary Artists Explore Cartography* (Princeton Architectural Press, New York), also in 2009.

Dissident Futures is made possible through the generous support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Ana Albir.



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Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

YBCA Exhibitions 13-14 is made possible in part by:

Mike Wilkins and Sheila Daignan, Meridee Moore and Kevin King, the Creative Ventures Council and Members of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

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