OVERVIEW

Dissident Futures
Downstairs Galleries

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 intensive 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 sequestered 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 traumautants, Melanie Gilligan’s experimental multi-episode science fiction drama where personal needs are inexorably linked to exchange value, and Rewital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen’s object designs that maximize the movements of individual factory workers are examples of how this exhibition resists 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 temporalities; and post-apocalypse scenarios.


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.

Artworks shown on this page:
Shane Hope, xiome, kid threads, 2012, Archival pigment print, 40" x 32", Courtesy of the artist.

David Huffman, Sideshow, 2008, Acrylic, oil, glitter, collage on paper, 52 x 120 in., Courtesy of the artist.
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 Madame Snack from San Francisco's premier monthly dance event, Haptenia, 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 Haptenia AV team. At 8 PM, Dissident Futures exhibiting artist Kamau Amu Paton will join Los Angeles-based artist Suzy Poling as "Antennas: Prism Moon," 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 funk, dark electro project Killin’ J.A.W. (Kim Clayton and Brian D. Flock) 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
Neil Beloufa
Heman Chong & Anthony Marcellini
Peter Coffin
Revital Cohen & Tuur Van Balen
Brody Condon
Future Cities Lab
Melanie Gilligan
Lynn Hershman Leeson
Shane Hope
David Huffman
Paul Lafollette
Basim Magdy
Dan Mills
The Otolith Group
Trevor Paglen
Katie Paterson
Kamau Amu Patton
Connie Samaras
Caleen Sradin

Born in 1956 in Waterloo, New York, Dan Mills is Director of the Museum of Art and Lecture 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 reimagines 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); Metacap Bank, Chicago (2012); Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Tianjin (2009–2010); Sherry Trumka 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.

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ART WORKS
BELIEVE

YBCA’s programs are made possible in part by:
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