

Allison Lacher and Jeff Robinson began their collaboration in 2015 with the exhibition *A Kitchen Without a Knife is Not a Kitchen* at Kitchen Space gallery in Chicago. For the next year-and-a half the duo continued to produce collaborative exhibitions at Museum Blue, St. Louis; Roman Susan, Chicago; Outhaus, Champaign, Illinois; and The Ski Club, Milwaukee. Lacher and Robinson are Co-Directors of DEMO Project, an artist-run contemporary art gallery in Springfield, Illinois. Individually, Lacher has exhibited nationally at venues such as E.TAY Gallery, New York; The Luminary, St. Louis; CAUC Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Illinois State Museum, Chicago and Springfield. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Edinboro University, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Indiana University, Bloomington. Along with a rigorous independent curatorial practice, Lacher is the Gallery Manager at the Visual Arts Gallery of University of Illinois at Springfield. Robinson's work has been exhibited at the Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center, Chicago; Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, Illinois; (SCENE) Metrospace, East Lansing, Michigan; and University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal, among others. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Illinois at Springfield, and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting from Illinois State University. He works at the University of Illinois at Springfield as an Instructor of Art and as the Director of the Visual Arts Gallery.

SUBDIVISION

Allison Lacher & Jeff Robinson

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING:

Artists' Lecture

Wednesday, March 8, at 12 pm

Hours

Monday: 9:30 am – 5 pm

Tuesday: 9:30am – 8 pm

Wednesday-Friday: 9:30 am – 5 pm

Saturday/Sunday: 12 – 4 pm



This project is organized by University Galleries' Curator Jason Judd.

University Galleries is located at Uptown Station at the corner of Beaufort and Broadway. Parking is available directly above, and the first hour is free. If you need special accommodations to participate in any event, please contact University Galleries at 309.438.5487 or gallery@ilstu.edu. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation. Please note that all events at University Galleries are free.

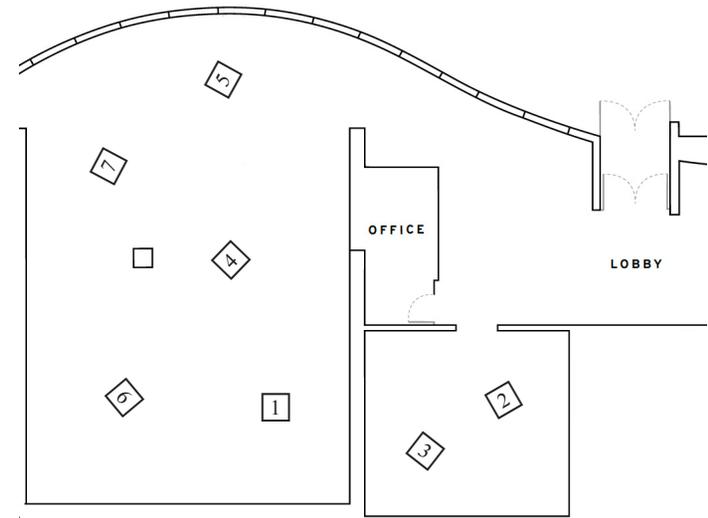
ON VIEW
February 21 – April 2, 2017

SUBDIVISION

With its seven framed-out wooden façades, Allison Lacher and Jeff Robinson's *Subdivision* transforms two galleries into a faux neighborhood where, on a weekly basis, additional artists are invited to manipulate one of the home-like structures in any manner of their choosing. Glossy white sheets of acrylic are attached to the face of every façade, each bearing its own vinyl decals depicting common household object such as a vent, light switch, or power outlet. The installation immerses visitors in a landscape that evokes a recession-stricken, partially developed subdivision that is strangely populated by utilitarian-looking "sculptures" surrounded by decals of picket fences.

Subdivision will continually evolve during its six-week duration as the artists selected by Lacher and Robinson incrementally build upon, alter, or reinvent one of the aforementioned sculptures "causing," according to Robinson and Lacher, "the exhibition to develop in ways not entirely within anyone's control." As people gather for the exhibition's opening on Tuesday, February 21, at 5pm, **Selina Trepp** and **Andy Roche** will be the first participating artists to respond to their assigned structure. Following suit on successive Fridays, artists **Amanda Bowles** and **Erin Hayden**, **Alejandro T. Acierto**, **Thad Kellstadt**, and collaborative duo **Melissa Oresky** and **Zak Boerger**, will "perform" their work with a free public event in the gallery. In the last week of the exhibition, the "subdivision" will have changed from a conglomeration of similar architectural forms to a mash-up of different aesthetics, styles, practices, materials, and tastes—from a series of houses to a community of neighbors.

Throughout this collaborative exhibition, Lacher and Robinson's roles will have transformed from traditional artists to artist-curators, or from material-manipulators to exhibition-makers. This hybrid role offers creative freedoms not afforded to a "professional" curator, from disregarding clarity in favor of experimentation, to destabilizing conventional roles and critiquing institutions—sometimes at the very institutions in which they are creating. The artist-curator moves freely between labels, uninhibited by expectations other than producing the unexpected. Everything the artist-curator does can be deemed as a work of art, from materials and coordination to another artist's artwork. For Lacher and Robinson, the exhibition itself is the true medium.



1 Selina Trepp
Tuesday, February 21, at 5 pm

Using home-made balls made from her studio scraps, Selina Trepp's *Neighbors* invites all gallery attendees to join her in kicking and playing with the one-of-a-kind plastic-wrapped spheres. Inspired by instances of meeting new people from retrieving her children's assortment of balls from neighbor's yards, Trepp uses her spherical sculptures to promote accidental introductions.

2 Andy Roche
Tuesday, February 21, at 5 pm

Hanging from the wooden form, Andy Roche's plastic tarp has a combination of airbrush painting and vinyl photo stickers that depicts bay windows where a gust of wind is blowing a stack of papers around the house and out the opposite window. Inside the form and among the turmoil of papers representing an actual novel he is working on, Roche will host a surprise performance for the opening of the exhibition.

3 Amanda Bowles
Friday, March 3, at 7 pm

Amanda Bowles' site-specific installation includes a custom wall painting, blinking sculptures, and, most importantly, a wall-hung electronic tablet. During the scheduled gallery opening, Bowles will "inhabit" the tablet via Facetime, performing as a "live photo" portrait. The structure itself will be modified by the addition of a mirror that will aid in extending and contracting perceived space between the performer and the viewer.

4 Erin Hayden
Friday, March 3, at 7 pm

Erin Hayden will present *Pretty Feelings*, a performance event where poetry will be read aloud while Hayden interacts with willing participants, painting their nails and toes as well as her own. Her structure in *Subdivision* will act as a backdrop for this event—a home covered in images of sparking toes. An accompanying video component reveals friendships with attitudes and diaristic texts.

5 Alejandro T. Acierto
Friday, March 10, at 7 pm

Alejandro T. Acierto will activate the space through an experimental participatory project that considers the nature of political organizing in the era of Web 2.0. Using a real-time social media monitoring program as a backdrop to activate a set of megaphones within the installation, Acierto engages the structure as an open framework that student organizations and activists can inhabit. After a preliminary solo performance for megaphones and voice, the structure will offer various communities a temporary site to return to, work in, strategize, and recoup for the rest of the exhibition. Using open source technologies, *Return, refresh, sustain* attempts to embody and present a framework that enables collaborative interactions between organizers, communities, and the public.

6 Thad Kellstadt
Friday, March 24, at 7 pm

Thad Kellstadt will present *Hiraeth*, an installation exploring how we encapsulate ideas and feelings of "home" into a given location, time, and space. The Welsh word "Hiraeth" is used to describe yearning and nostalgia for a particular past which we may or may not have experienced. Using the provided structure as an anchor, Kellstadt aims to create an esoteric mapping of the factual and fabled ideas and feelings of what he considers to be "home".

7 Melissa Oresky and Zak Boerger
Friday, March 31, at 7 pm

Beginning Saturday, March 25, Melissa Oresky will hold "Collage on Demand" events, a participatory process where she responds to requests for artwork from gallery visitors. At the end of this six-day period, the collages she has made-to-order will have gradually grown to cover the structure she and musician collaborator Zak Boerger will "inhabit." Additionally, she and Boerger will utilize the structure as a site for related video and sound work, developed along the theme of the "domestic." For the March 31 event, Boerger will also perform a solo set.

At the close of the exhibit, all "Collage on Demand" pieces will be given to the gallery visitors who "commissioned" them. Any donations in exchange for collages will be directed to human rights, healthcare, and environmental organizations.