

**University Galleries of Illinois State University is pleased to present three new exhibitions:**

***Jeff Robinson and Allison Lacher: Subdivision***

***Edra Soto: Manual GRAFT***

**and *Deb Sokolow: Schematics, Surveillance, Murder.***

The exhibitions will open with a free public reception on Tuesday, February 21, from 5-7pm, and will remain on view through April 2.

***Deb Sokolow: Schematics, Surveillance, Murder***

Artist lecture: March 2 at noon

Deb Sokolow's text-based drawings and collages are based on purposeful research and humorous conjecture about cultural icons and everyday people, mysterious moments and alternate histories, distant places and nearby spaces. Her drawings typically consist of multiple sheets of paper filled with blocky graphite lettering, Xeroxed photographic images, sketchy architectural renderings, and painted geometric shapes reminiscent of Minimalism. New works are prompted by something she has personally observed, such as the replacement of windows on the building across the street from her studio, or some far-fetched thing she has read about, such as the momentary "disappearance" of the Statue of Liberty by illusionist David Copperfield in 1983, or the fantastical San Jose, California, mansion built by heiress Sarah Winchester in a reported effort to appease angry ghosts. Rather than supplying linear narratives, Sokolow writes inventive storylines that incorporate the voice of a suspicious narrator who interjects with questions, suggestions and opinions. In *The New York Times*, Ken Johnson writes, "The eccentrically forensic style of Ms. Sokolow's zany project reflects her effort to comprehend the facts and rumors, as if she herself were a justifiably paranoid character in a Thomas Pynchon novel."

The four multipanel drawings included in this exhibition, ranging from six to twenty-seven feet wide, were made between 2012 and 2016. Each includes a reference to the art world cast in a strange or outright criminal context. Individually, these works: fantasize that an artist residency is a brainwashing station for an international ring of art thieves; speculate about the occupants of her studio building and the development of a cult in her neighborhood; touch upon an unfortunate entanglement between an artist and the CIA; and imagine a scenario in which the CIA planned to use a sculpture to assassinate a foreign leader. The exhibition's title is derived from Sokolow's 88-inch-wide drawing entitled *A Case Study in Schematics, Surveillance and Murder*, concerning the 1964 murder of abstract painter Mary Pinchot Meyer, a mistress of President John F. Kennedy and ex-wife of a CIA agent. Sokolow's diversion from the sordid facts interweaves brief accounts of orgone boxes, painted rocks containing "bugs" planted by a CIA Counterintelligence chief, and painters in the Washington Color School, illustrated with an imaginary architectural plan of Ms. Pinchot Meyer's house. Sokolow's investigations are particularly salient given our current climate of fake news, conspiracy theories, and "alternative facts."

Sokolow's work has been included in the 4th *Athens Biennial*, as well as exhibitions at the Drawing Center, New York; Van Abbemuseum, Netherlands; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and the Kemper Museum of Art, Kansas City. Her work is in the collections of Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Kinsey Institute

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for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, Bloomington, Indiana; and the Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Sokolow has received an Artadia award, fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and Illinois Arts Council, and residencies from the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Art Omi, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. She received her Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The artist lives in Chicago and is represented by Western Exhibitions, Chicago.

This exhibition is organized by Senior Curator Kendra Paitz. Programs at University Galleries are funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

All events are free and open to the public. Contact [gallery@ilstu.edu](mailto:gallery@ilstu.edu) or 309.438.8191 to register for the field trip program or to schedule exhibition tours.

*University Galleries is located at Uptown Station at the corner of Beaufort and Broadway streets. Parking is available directly above in the Uptown Station parking deck, and the first hour is free, as well as any time after 5:01pm. If you need special accommodations to participate in any event, please contact University Galleries at 309.438.5487 or [gallery@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:gallery@IllinoisState.edu). All events at University Galleries are free and open to the public.*

*For more information, visit [galleries.IllinoisState.edu](http://galleries.IllinoisState.edu) or call 309.438.5487. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Sign up to receive emails by clicking the Constant Contact link on our homepage.*