

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLAFFER ART MUSEUM AND CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
PRESENT ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE LYNNE MCCABE



Courtesy of Lynne McCabe

HOUSTON (June 13, 2012) – Blaffer Art Museum and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at the University of Houston are pleased to announce Lynne McCabe's *Room to be (Ms.)understood*, an exhibition that exists as an active social sculpture workshop. Social relations and experience-as-medium play an important role in contemporary art practices with many artists orchestrating social gestures and services as primary modes of working. McCabe's workshop will explore the potentialities and limits of social sculpture by looking to a different, often neglected history of feminist writing, performance, and site-specific interventions from the 1970s. By focusing on process, interaction and

conversation, McCabe's work will be the product of social engagement and active negotiation among all participants.

The workshop will take place Tuesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm from August 28-December 4, 2012 at Blaffer Art Museum. The workshop is open to all (class credit is available for University of Houston students enrolled in IART 3365-6395). This class-as-exhibition builds upon important precedents such as "Night School" at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, "Public Engagement" at the Hammer Museum at UCLA, and "Pick Pocket Almanack" in San Francisco. Students, faculty and members of the public are encouraged to partake in the experience which will have an afterlife as a Blaffer publication. Participants will have a role in determining the form of the book and its contents, which may include photographic documentation, scholarly texts and interviews that contextualize McCabe's residency and the practice of "social sculpture". McCabe, along with Blaffer curatorial staff, will also maintain a blog about the project which may find other digital life as a podcast.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Originally from Scotland, Lynne McCabe received her MFA in Social Practice from the California College of the Arts in 2010 and her BA with honors from the Glasgow School of Art in 1999. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, including the group exhibitions *Formals* at the Studio for Urban Projects in San Francisco, *Last Day of Magic* at the 53rd Venice Biennale, and a collaborative public performance *The Debate* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2008. In 2010 she contributed to the SFMOMA public programming web project "Open Space". In 2010 she curated exhibitions and gatherings in her Berkeley home as part of a project called *She Works Flexible Now*. In Houston her group and solo exhibitions have included *Portable On Demand Art* in 2011, the 2008 *Houston Area Exhibition* at Blaffer Art Museum, her 2007-08 residency at Lawndale Art Center, *The Caledonian Institute for the Study of Interpersonal Relationships presents a series of intimate exchanges hosted by Lynne McCabe* at Lawndale Art Center in 2002, and the exhibitions *\$timulus, WHO ARE YOU?*, and *Order Diptera* at Diverseworks Artspace. Her ongoing project *pot·luck* culminated in 2007 at Project Row Houses, where she was also a visiting artist in 2011. McCabe was a recipient of the 2008 Artadia Award.

RELATED EVENTS



Room to be (Ms.)understood: A Panel Discussion
with Jacki Apple, Elizabeth Gregory, Lynne McCabe, and Jenni Sorkin
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
5:30-8:30pm
Blaffer Art Museum
Free and open to the public

This panel discussion will be a public conversation among Jacki Apple, a visual, performance and media artist, Lynne McCabe, Blaffer Art Museum and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center artist-in-residence, and Elizabeth Gregory, Professor of English and Director of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at the University of Houston. The conversation will be moderated by Jenni Sorkin, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art and Critical Studies in the School of Art at the University of Houston. The participants will discuss the feminist potentialities and limits of "social sculpture".



"Working with Social Works"

A public lecture by Shannon Jackson, Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies at the University of California, Berkeley

Followed by a conversation with Lynne McCabe

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

6:30-8pm

Blaffer Art Museum

Free and open to the public

Shannon Jackson is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Distinguished Professor in the Arts and Humanities in the Departments of Rhetoric and of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also currently the Director of the Arts Research Center at Berkeley. Jackson's most recent book is *Social Works: Performing Art, Supporting Publics* (2011); she is also working on a book about The Builders Association. In 2011, she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Division of Arts and Humanities at UC Berkeley. Before moving to Berkeley, Jackson was an assistant professor of English and Literature at Harvard University from 1995 to 1998. She is also the author of *Lines of Activity: Performance, Historiography, and Hull-House Domesticity* (2000) and *Professing Performance: Theatre in the Academy from Philology to Performativity* (2004).

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