

ASP+AAP!INSEAT

ASP AAT SHANTY 09 PROJECTS 09

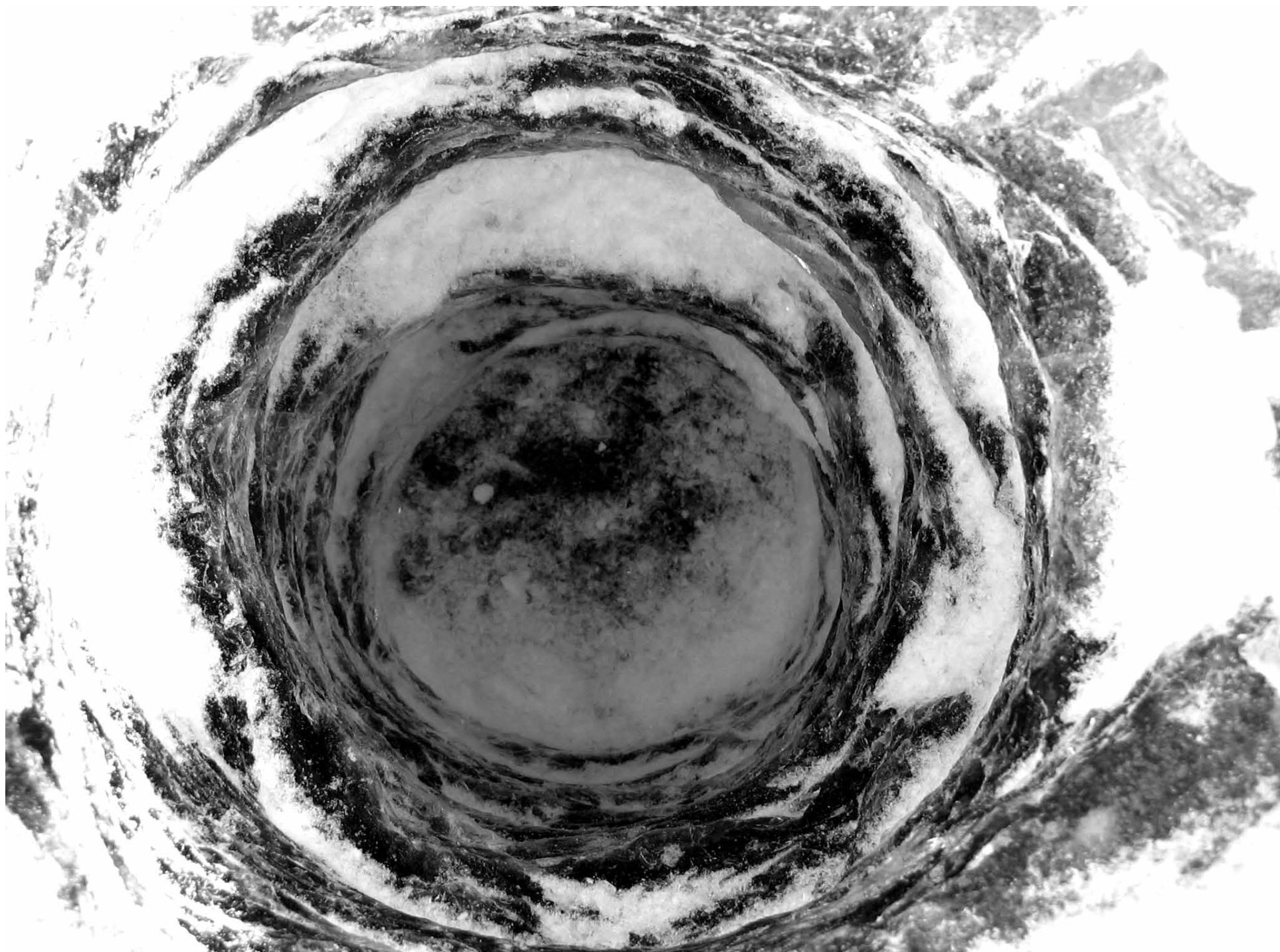
ON MEDICINE LAKE, PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA • WINTER 2009

JANUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 14

Art Shanty Projects is an artist driven temporary community exploring the ways in which the relatively unregulated public space of the frozen lake can be used as a new and challenging artistic environment to expand notions of what art can be.

For more information, project descriptions, dates, times and a complete calendar of the 2009 Art Shanty Project programming please visit artshantyproject.org

OPENING DAY - Saturday, January 17 • Open weekends and occasional weekdays



**SOAP
FACTORY** soapfactory.org
612.623.9176

For directions, schedule and to sign up for weekly e-mail updates see: artshantyprojects.org
Art Shanty Projects contact, info and updates at: info@artshantyprojects.org

This activity is made possible, in part, by funds provided by MN Artists.org, the McKnight Foundation and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council from an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature and the fiscal sponsorship of Intermedia Arts. Thank you.

Intermedia Arts



MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

ART SHANTY PROJECTS 09

ON MEDICINE LAKE PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Mission

Art Shanty Projects is an artist driven temporary community exploring the ways in which the relatively unregulated public space of the frozen lake can be used as a new and challenging artistic environment to expand notions of what art can be.

Artistic Goals

The project provides a unique opportunity for artists to interact with their audience, and vice versa, in an un-intimidating, non-gallery like environment. Artists can choose to work in a way that directly engages the audience i.e. knitting or singing Karaoke or in a more passive way.

The focus of this project is on both process and quality of artistic product:

- Artists creating projects that push them and engage the audience.
- The project management providing a flexible structure to work, allowing for the development and realization of an artist's idea.
- Smart growth, the project must self-govern to respect the environment of the lake and the community of fisher-people that already exists, we are bringing a new use to a place that already has an established relationship with its patrons.
- Audience engagement is essential to the success of the experience, for both artist and audience.

The project runs for 5 weeks, with weekends the most heavily attended by the public. Staffing your project during the weekend and focusing interaction with the audience during these times is encouraged and should be addressed in your proposal.

Values

We value respect for the frozen lake community of which we are a part.

We value respect for the environment.

We value artists' work and strive to pay them a fair wage.

We expand the definition of who is an artist.

We value the importance of artist and community interaction.

We expand notions of what art is and can be.

We believe in the value of artists and art in all communities.

ASP09 STAFF

Director David Pitman

Administration Cassandra Monson

Communications Morgan L'Argent

Grant Writing Shanai Matteson

Press Secretary Andrew Sturdevant

ASP09 BOARD

Jan Elftmann Mitch Redepenning

Melinda Hobbs Peter Haakon Thompson

Karen Kasel

ASP+ARP!INSERT

is published as a special insert to the third issue of ARP! for the 2009 Art Shanty Projects.

Special thanks to Tiffany Hockin, Ariel Pate, Troy Pieper and the staff at ARP! ArtReviewandPreview.org

Editors: Cynthia Lapp, David Pitman

Design and layout: Mike Tincher, T DESIGN, Minneapolis

Thank you to all photographers, artists, designers and people who contributed to this publication.

Art Shanty Diary

by Lucy Coleman

February 15, 2003

Dear Diary,

Yesterday was my 13th birthday and I cannot believe what my parents made me do! They made me go to this shanty town on the ice on Medicine Lake. Well, the last thing I wanted to do was go there and look at these poor folks shanties; but after I got there, I was so surprised! There were these really cool little houses with funny things on the inside and the outside. One shanty looked like a large tepee and it had cloth blowing in the wind. It looked like a sailing ship! Another was all wood with funny shaped windows that looked like clouds. Still another was round with people knitting inside. I guess they were knitting scarves and hats for homeless folks. And Dear Diary, I happened to see my friend Alice who lives near Medicine Lake and I know from church. She was there with her parents too.

We laughed when we saw each other. Our hands were so cold and our cheeks red from the wind. As it turned out, my 13th birthday with my parents was pretty cool!! Haha.

February 11, 2006

Dear Diary,

My 16th birthday is coming up in four days and my parents said that I could go to the Art Shanty Projects on Medicine lake with a few friends. I asked Alice and Susan to join me and we had a great time. The weather was warm and sunny and the three of us felt like Polar Queens dressed in nothing but jeans and heavy sweaters and scarves. No bulky coats and hats for us! Since the weather was so warm this year, the shanties were next to the shoreline. I guess this was so if any of them sank they could be easily be brought to shore rather than having to be fished off the bottom of Medicine lake. Our feet got very wet and cold. A lot of people were wearing rubber boots and waders. There were a group of people called Zombies walking around the shanties. They had white faces with red lines which I guess was supposed to look like blood. They were dressed in black and kind of howling around being weird. There were a couple of policemen following them. I didn't know if they were real police people or Zombie police people. Also, there were some new shanties. There was a radio station called K-ICE, and when we went into the shanty there, a dog named Bell greeted us and the DJ asked us to sit on what looked like seating from a coffee shop, and the DJ started interviewing us. We were laughing so hard we had to stop!! There was an outdoor movie theatre there as well as a limnology (I had to look that word up in the dictionary) shanty which had a place for us to look at the water in the Lake. After walking around for a while, we bumped into two guys from church and we went into the hot drink shanty to visit. I got home later than my parents wanted so I am grounded for the next week. Good thing I have my own cell phone.

February 16, 2008

Dear Diary,

Yesterday was my 18th birthday and Carl and I walked over to the Art Shanty Projects. In two years the Shanty Projects has really gotten larger. There was a taxi service made up of a car with corks all over it and another car painted different colors. We went to the postal shanty and got postcards to send to a few friends and then went to the camera shanty where we had our picture taken. We walked around for awhile, it was really cold and windy, but the sun was shining so it was a beautiful day. Carl noticed there was a race track and saw the bicycle shanty which was a moving shanty powered by the people inside pedaling! We climbed on board and pedaled our way around the track of ice and packed snow. It was such a riot! And then we heard there



The Ice Knife on Medicine Lake in 2003.

was going to be a bicycle race around the track so we hung out until that started! All the riders were bundled up in hats, helmets, scarves, gloves, boots and even some of the riders had spiky tires to gain traction on the ice and snow. The referee blew his whistle to start the race and about twenty-five bicyclists started slipping and sliding around the track. It was really wild! I can't remember who won, but the bicyclists that finished were breathing really hard and laughing at the same time! Carl asked me to the Spring Prom after we got back to my house. It was a very good day. I have to work on college applications tonight.

February 14, 2015

Dear Diary,

I came back from Canada to spend Presidents week with my parents. Dad isn't doing too well and Mom is pretty exhausted. I thought I might be able to help for a while. I went over to the Art Shanty Projects just to get some fresh air, and oh what a great Minnesota winter day it was.... Bright blue sky, no clouds, crisp breeze, and crunchy snow. I noticed that there were many things the same about the Art Shantys... A knitting shanty, a radio station shanty, a postal office shanty, a T shirt shop shanty, an arts gallery shanty, a hot drink/food shanty, a bicycle taxi shanty, and a camera obscura shanty. There were additional shanties too: a television shanty, a cyber café shanty, a buddhist temple shanty, and a wind surfing shanty with a huge sail. I think the wind needed to be really blowing for that shanty to work. Also, there was the Safety School Shanty which gave hourly presentations on cold weather safety while snow mobilizing, xc skiing, or just being outside in winter. There was one couple who had jet packs and they were taking off and landing in the middle of the Shanty projects. They were dressed in gray/blue outfits which blended into the sky when they were in the air, so when they landed with a roaring noise from their jet packs in the middle of a crowd at the Shanty Projects, everyone was initially startled and scared, but then would burst out laughing right away! Such fun.

Our Warmest Regards, Andy:

Dear Shanty enthusiasts,

The following is an excerpt from the upcoming **Our Warmest Regards: Love, Loss, Heartbreak and the Triumph of the Human Spirit on Medicine Lake**, a collection of advice columns I have written for the participants of the **Art Shanty Projects** for the last six years. Early next year, it will be published by the University of Minnesota Press and available in fine bookstores everywhere. In sampling both the book's foreword and a few personal favorites in the coming pages, I would like to share with you some of the workable and humane solutions I've been able to convey to friends and strangers in these difficult winter months. We all help each other on the ice, and this advice column has been a testament to that.

If you are reading these words from the ice, take a moment to look up from this paper you are holding in your hands, and survey the scene around you. What do you see? Collectivism, the fruits of hard work, smiling children on sleds, families clad in warm clothes, various dogs running around that don't seem to belong to anyone. Suburban fishermen interact warmly with disaffected urban hipsters. Laughter and music surrounds us. It is a truly beautiful world that we have built here on the ice, this Shantytown.

But I understand that it is not all fun and frolic. The air is cold, the wind is treacherous, and the cut-throat sexual politics of the contemporary American art school are a pervasive undercurrent. Bundled in seven layers, women look like men, and men look like monsters. The delicate pas de deux of romantic inquiry is undermined at every turn by subzero temperatures and the stink of dead fish. It is a beautiful world out here on Medicine Lake, but it can be so very lonely, so very confusing. That is why I have been asked to write this column – to show that you are not alone out here.

Real people have real problems out here, but I can help you solve them. Did some Carhart-clad cutie seem to be singing "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out" just to you in the Norae Shanty, but you're not sure what to do now? Are you worried that your down jacket makes you look like the Michelin Man? Do Michelin Men arouse you in uncomfortable and professionally problematic ways?

These are problems I can help with.

I have a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Louisville, a master's degree in social work from the Northeast Temple of Education Extension School on Central Avenue, and a dozen years of experience as Art Shanty Projects press secretary. Hundreds of ASP participants have found the sympathetic, fur-clad ear they have been searching for in this cold and lonely ice world of our own creation. It is my honor to serve them, and to serve you.

Our warmest regards, Andy



Paul Linden's Art Shanty seen over Chris Pennington's crumbling Ice Ball Monolith sculpture.

Dear Warmest Regards, Andy:

I feel lonely. Is it the lack of sun, you think? Is there a direct correlation between loneliness and sunlessness? What do you suggest I listen to counteract such effects? Is the Beatles' Rubber Soul a good option? Help me, Warmest Regards: What's like UV rays on these cold days?

Your friend forever (YFF), Cold, Cold Heart

Dear CCH,

I doubt that the Beatles – those fun-loving, mop-topped, sitar-plucking 24-year old millionaires – can offer you much help in the situation. Do you know the average temperature in Liverpool this time of year? It's a balmy high of 44, low of 35 degrees Fahrenheit. And even this temperate climate, dear CCH, proved to be too much for England's Newest Hitmakers to stand! They fled Liverpool for India and France and San Francisco, hoping to escape not only the chilly gloom of the River Mersey, but also the high taxes that threatened to whittle away their millions of pounds.

Does this sound applicable to our way of life here in Minnesota, where we endure much gloomier weather and much higher taxes? No, it does not. To play Rubber Soul in an attempt to feel some aural sunshine would be only to endure the mocking of fatuous, Cuban-booted pop stars as they smoke banana peels with Donovan inside the climate-controlled South Asian compound of the Maharishi. This would not be helpful.

Instead, I recommend you look at one of the songs on Rubber Soul, "Norwegian Wood," and let that orient your musical compass. I have found, in shanty-living over the years, that playing the raucous, fiddle-enhanced communal dance music of Norway, Sweden and especially Finland cuts through the gloom in a way nothing else does. Head over to Ingebretsen's on Lake Street, and let the knowledgeable staff there help you select the Nordic hootenanny soundtrack to guide you through this gloomy, lonesome season. The Nordics are a people that understand taxes and permafrost. Plus, wearing one of those little reindeer hats on top of your head that they sell would be just darling. Reindeer hats, fiddles, quadrilles and the dance-hall attentions of strapping, blonde Scandihoo specimens of physical perfection are a more than decent substitute for sunlight.

Warmest regards, Andy

Dear Warmest Regard Andy,

I have to wake up every morning at 5am to go to work. I roll out of bed looking like the sleep-deprived love spawn of Steve Buscemi and the Elephant Man. I barely have time to shower, have no time for makeup, and have to wear hospital scrubs all day. How can I be sexy again?

Love, Hello Nurse

Dear Hello Nurse,

It seems to me that your expectations for what constitutes "sexy" have been undermined by the retro-fascist, antifeminist, patriarchal expectations of this unhappy, collagen-blasted era in American cultural life. So your hair is amiss, your make-up unapplied, and ill-fitting hospital scrubs are your wardrobe?

No problem, I say.

There is a time and place, dear nurse, where this sort of furious outsider sartorial nonchalance would have not only been deemed sexy, but also celebrated outright by mass culture. This time and place was the 1970s, a truly great era for our Republic. Think of icons such as poetaster Patti Smith (especially on the cover of her 1979 album *Easter*), terrifying doom moppet Lydia Lunch, or the tousled, drugged, machine gun-toting Patty "Tania" Hearst. Let these women guide your style. You could make a non-effort to slowly direct your dishevelment into a powerful statement about rage, poesy, empowerment and déclassé grit. I presume you're permitted to smoke at the hospital, so dangling a cigarette insouciantly from your lips at all times would certainly help. Perhaps you could randomly spout such phrases as "Death to the fascist insects!" and "Switchblades preferred! Go Rimbaud!" in the course of your daily activities. Try throwing on a militant-looking beret, or enormous insect sunglasses, or a Symbionese Liberation Army armband, as well.

I have no doubt that taking these steps will propel you to the forefronts of determined, uncompromising sexiness in a way that your charges at the hospital will appreciate. After all, nothing is sexier than kicking it to The Man, and in the Kafkaesque environs of the American healthcare system, a little bit of that goes a long way.

Warmest regards, Andy



The Mobile Home Shanty rolled around the Projects propelled by half a dozen Shanty goers with adapted bicycle technology (pedals) during ASP08.



Andrew MacGuffie's 7' tall Steel Shanty on (in?) Medicine Lake during ASP03.

Past Ice

Artist: Andrew MacGuffie, ASP 2003, year #2

Made from sheets of steel screwed together. The entrance was on the top. It stood just over 7 feet tall. It was just under 5 feet round. It had no heat. At one point during the shifting weather it began to sink into the ice. The bottom lip was only as thick as the steel. Andrew simply came out and in true MacGuffie fashion levered it out of the ice and put it on a pallet. It was taken whole but on its side to Chicago for the Version Fest 03. It just fit in the loading dock door of the warehouse where it was held. He used the fire escape on the east side of the building to chain hoist it into position to fit through the door. Inside after rolling it in on dollies the same hoist was attached to an i-beam and it was righted. The last place the Shanty was installed was in the Soap Factory that summer. It was brought in from through the loading dock on the south side of the building. It was maybe 1/4 inch too big. Some marks were added to the opening during the entry process. When the show ended he simply unscrewed it and loaded out the flat sheets. The material was absorbed into future projects.

Bigloo

December 26th - January 3, 2009

The Bigloo makes its appearance again this year on a frozen lake near Finland, Minnesota



The Bigloo in Finland, MN.



The clown cast of Uncle Sergi performing in the Black Box Theater Shanty #01 during ASP08.

Black Box Theater Shanty

Call for Performers and Performances



Yes!! The Black Box Theater is back again in 2009! The Black Box is the tiniest theater in town offering diverse programming and a continuous full house. We are calling all dancers, puppeteers, musicians, performance artists, singers, spoken word artists, mystics, cooking experts, lectures etc... to send in a proposal and request a slot. Curators Soozin Hirschmugl, Tou Cha, and Danny Friedman will curate this years performances on an ongoing basis. So, please dust off those old instruments you played in high school... put together that puppet show you have always wanted to perform... polish that poetry you have secretly been writing and contact the curators to schedule a slot and come perform on the ICE.

One and two hour slots are available. E mail proposals to: tellmethefuture@gmail.com



Hearty Bunny Hoppers in -50° wind chill out on the frozen ice of Medicine Lake attempting to break the Guinness World Record Bunny Hop line during ASP08. ASP09? Conga Line GWW attempt!

ASP 09 ARTSHANTY PROJECTS 09 WHO'S ON THE ICE?

01 BLACK BOX THEATER SHANTY • Artists: Soozin Hirschmugl, Tou Cha, Danny Friedman, Emily Umentum • The Black Box Shanty is a small-scale theater that highlights the relationship and proximity of performer and spectator. Every weekend during the 2009 Art Shanty Projects we will present an eclectic mix of performances in the tiniest theater in town.

02 SNAP SHOT SHANTY • Artists: Sam Hoolihan, Emily Darnell, Molly Roth • The Snap Shot Shanty will function as a multipurpose studio space used to facilitate projects with the attendees of The Art Shanty Projects. Each weekend the Snap Shot Shanty will have a project based theme, and these events will then be documented in photo, video, and sound formats and posted on The Snap Shot Shanty blog. Examples of specific activities include: "The Light Box Kaleidoscope Weekend", "World's Coldest Variety Hour", "Mask-Making Monsters", and "The Frozen Percussion Orchestra".

03 ArtCar TAXI SHANTY • Artists: Allen Christian, Duane Tougas, Ephraim Eusebio, Greg Leierwood, Jan D. Elftmann, Janet Groenert, Kat Corrigan, Maryanna Harstad, Max Haynes, Mina Leierwood, Morgan L'Argent, Neal Spinler, Rebecca Ames, Ruthann Godollei, Sandra Elftmann • Take a ride in an ArtCar Taxi from the parking lot of Medicine Lake out to the Art Shanty's every Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. Book a scenic tour of Medicine Lake after you enjoy hot food and beverages from the ArtCar Taxi Shanty.

04 SWEAT & DRINK INC. • Artists: Jonas Lindberg, Betsy Hieb • The Sweat & Drink Inc. Shanty utilizes a state-of-the-art sauna distillery technology to make the whole of Medicine Lake drinkable. We need your employment. Benefits include: clean skin, relaxation, superb hydration and much more. Please bring your swimsuit or not.

05 NORAE BANG SHANTY • Artists: Jesse Siegel, Taffi Vagilante, Mike Hoyt • The Norae Bang Shanty brings the love of karaoke out onto the ice. A warm hate-free zone provides an outlet for you to pop in and share your karaoke capabilities or a chance to sing one of your favorite songs.

06 ART POST SHANTY • Artists: Jill Waterhouse, Kathleen Reitan • The world's only Post Office on ice, the Art Post Shanty is the official mail service for the Art Shanty Project. Make a postcard to send from the ice OR send us mail that we'll deliver to your favorite Art Shanty. Join us for wacky projects and performances, including "Art on Ice," the first mail art show held in a shanty! (Details/address on ASP website after 12/19/08)

07 BIOLOGY SHANTY • Artists: Joey Reid, Mitch Haustein • The Biology Shanty connects visitors with the natural world. Through direct interaction with practicing biologists in the shanty, visitors will engage in research and educational activities. Visitors get hands on experience with the tools of science as they learn about the food webs that support Medicine Lake and biological research that relates to their daily lives.

08 THIRD LEVEL SHANTY • Artists: Peter Sowinski, Lucas Koski, Sam Koenigsberg • The Third Level is a marvel of design and construction. Lifting visitors to new heights, and enhancing the best aspects of Medicine Lake and Projects this shanty includes a heated programming space on the 1st floor, a 2nd floor deck and a 3rd floor observation/fishing chamber.

09 SHIP IN THE BOTTLE SHANTY • Artists: Mark Safford, Douglas Saldana, Stephan Thrust, Shelly Chinander, Julian Mcfaul, Xena Huff, Ethan Johnson, Andy Khel, Eric Hofstad, Huhk Stoike, Brent Harring • Artists with no discipline are pleased to bring you the Ship in the Bottle Shanty. Its purpose is to take sail to icehouse, create wonder, and bring people together in a zone where arctic barn raising is rewarded with the comrade ship of the sea. Join our motley crew turning 16ft bottle shanty to 32ft ice ship, and take to the high ice.

10 NEWS SHANTY • Artists: Tiffany Hockin, Ariel Pate • The News Shanty is your on-the-ice resource for independent, art-focused or otherwise creative, unconventional newspapers. In addition to being a temporary distribution locale for newsprint publications, the News Shanty is also host to local zines and pamphlets for your perusal. Come take a break, drink some coffee, and read the news!

11 dICEHOUSES SHANTY • Artists: Mike Haeg, Tammy Dahlke, John Nussbaum, Tom Haeg • The dICEHOUSES Shanty reminds folks that there is no more efficient source of warmth than sitting across the table from one's family, some good friends or strangers and playing some good ol' table top games. Each of the 5 dICEHOUSES is stocked with The Book of Hoyle, playing cards, dice and games for all to play.

12 PED PEX POWER POD SHANTY • Artists: Felicia Glidden, Colin Glidden, Veronica Glidden • The Ped Pex Power Pod relies on visitor's energy and stamina to pedal their way to a cup of hot coffee, tea or cocoa. A social sculpture and experiment in green energy, we are creating bicycle generators and are hoping you, our guests, will have enough pedal power to provide hot drinks for all. We ask visitors to bring a cup or thermos. Although we will have in house mugs, no foam or paper cups will be distributed. Bring your book club or coffee clutch and generate some heat.

13 KNITTING SHANTY • Artists: Amy Wilkerson, Tracy Cummings, Jody Wilkerson, Marilyn Thompson • This is our 4th year with the ASP. We create warm art and cozy knit goods. Drop in and see what we are working on. Bring your own knitting project and share stories with us. Or if you don't knit-ask nicely and we may show you a stitch or two!

14 NEMO SHANTY/U.S.S. WALTER MONDALE • Artists: Gabe Strader-Brown, Alex Nee, Lee Delegard, John McConnell • The intrepid USS Walter Mondale and its mighty crew have surfaced in Medicine Lake! Join them for this event of maritime merriment in what will likely be the last time they will see the sun in their long, arduous journey across the land of ten thousand lakes. Sing ancient chanteys, receive authentic* sailor tattoos, and peer through the periscope with genuine looking, sounding, and smelling sea folk. (*sort of)

15 IMPERIAL TRANSANTARCTIC EXPEDITION • Artists: Molly Goldberg, Mary Rothlisberger, Amber Phelps Bondaroff • From 1914-1917, Ernest Shackleton and his crew were stranded in the South Pole. For an entire Antarctic winter, 28 men lived under an overturned rowboat. What saved them from sure death? Optimism, storytelling, music, community, and a playful thirst for adventure. Survive with us through pageants, icecapades, lanternside chats, storytime, sing-alongs, & other adventures to boost morale on the frozen lake!

16 PAPER SHANTY • Artists: Anna Grace Christiansen, Claudette Gacuti, Isaac Bros, Jeffrey Maas, Kimmy Tanaka, Liz Parent, Mark Johnson • We wish to share our belief that paper is no ordinary material; that it can provide extraordinary experiences, tactilely, visually, and most definitely spatially. Not only is our shanty structured of paper tubes; paper is also the unifying element of the project. We wish to extend an invitation to all our guests to be part our creation, and let them in turn create beautiful objects of folded paper (origami). A Paper Shanty exists under the notion that every person is a designer and has the ability to become a part of the art shanty community through participation and activity.

17 RADICAL MAPPING SHANTY • Artists: Lesley Kadish, Jaime Haire • The Radical Mapping Shanty is a place of warmth, color, and upside-down vision. It is a place in the middle of a lake. It is a place where maps change the way you look at your world. The Shanty will function as a venue for map making. Each weekend a new mapping theme will be explored, and visitors will have the opportunity to create their own maps, as well as see and use old and unique maps of the art shanty town, Minnesota and beyond.

18 INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF METATEMPORAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IAMER) SHANTY • Artists: Andrew Dayton, Erin Fenton • After the success of the ASP2008 Field Museum, IAMER will install a Research Lab on Medicine Lake. We plan to perform a more intense and comprehensive study of the social, geographical, and environmental aspects of the Art Shanty community. Our research will include weekly activities such as: kite aerial photography, a collaborative community music improvisation workshop, documentation of local folklore, and various research "games." Our Research Lab will also be equipped with a research library available for public use as well as various ongoing sensory perception experiments.

19 K-ICE STUDIOS - 97.7FM on the ice. • Artists: David Pitman, bell • Micro-radio station broadcasts to Medicine Lake on 97.7 FM. Programming produced from The Art Shanty Projects participants, visitors and loosely affiliated fans. Mission: stir chaos with randomness. Come in, report the weather, sing a song, tell a story, a joke or relate your experience of being in the shanty. Special thanks to Thadeous Sheppeck, Michael Kronebusch, Chip Schilling and Mike Tincher.

20 LE DÉPANNEUR DE LA FRONT DE LIBERATION QUEBECOIS SHANTY • Artists: John Marks, David Petersen, Daniel Palahniuk • The members of Art of This Gallery present Le Dépanneur de la Front de Liberation Quebécois, aka The Quebécois Liberation Front Quickie Mart. Combining parts political allegory, absurdist mercantilism, and high cholesterol food, "Le Dep" is the entrepreneurial vision of three former "Felquistes" (the nickname of FLQ members). Disenchanted more by the violence of the movement than the Marxist ideology that ignited its insurgence, this trio of a one-time clandestine cell system has embarked on their final mission - the operation of an agit-prop-filled convenience store. Visitors of Le Dep will recognize the relationship between the comforts of consumerism and the absurd political language that its proprietors peddle.

21 WORD SHANTY • Artists: Miranda Trimmier, Amanda Hedlund • As artistic practices go, reading and writing are some of the most private: we do much of it alone. Could we share more of these experiences? The Word Shanty explores the social possibilities of reading and writing through a book exchange, a publicly-produced literary journal, and a rotating series of collaborative, word-themed performances, games, and activities.

22 BIFF SHANTY • Artists: On-Site Sanitation • Every ice covered lake needs 1, we'll have 2. Provided by On-Site Sanitation. Complete satisfaction is more than our goal - it's our standard. onsitesanitation.com

THICK ICE



The Limnology Shanty studied Medicine Lake during ASP07.

Finding the Community of the Future

By Edmar

I live and work in a near south side neighborhood of Chicago called Bridgeport. Off and on for 18 years or so I tended bar at my mother's dive bar and actually lived in an old bar in the neighborhood from time to time. I would sometimes move to Wicker Park and sometime move back to the hood. In the 90s I started a magazine called Lumpen and it was based out of Wicker Park, that once cool neighborhood full of artists, musicians etc... Lumpen magazine is still published today as are a few other publications we started.

Over the years I became increasingly involved with the emerging art /activism worlds in Chicago and around the world. As the century turned we started two DIY grassroots international arts festivals. A fall arts festival called Select Media Festival and a huge convergence/arts festival in the spring called Version. Both festivals became rallying points for activities and dreams about what is possible and what needs to be done to address the crisis of living American in the Age of Bush. Forgive the vagueness of this statement but it makes sense to me. Each festival would have a theme. Digital Commons, Invincible Desire, Parallel Cities, Insurrection Internationale, etc...

Using these themes and concepts as guides we create a temporary Autonomous Zone where hundreds of people converge and just do whatever they want in an avant guard and experimental environment. It was and is unreal and difficult to describe these festivals.. But to me, organizing, producing work for and creating conceptual frameworks for these festivals is one way that I create my own practice. It's also a way that I feel I contribute to the larger community of the city. We create platforms and we open source them to various communities. But sometimes these ideas and art projects have wings.

The reason I give this background is because in the course of living in Chicago and doing all these freaked out projects I always felt Bridgeport had been the center of Evil in Chicago. It is here where the Daley Machine started. It is also where lily white racism reared its ugly head and in the tradition of racist and segregated Chicago I would still be called gook or chink by my neighbors. I often wondered why my mother, Maria, ever bought this bar. I had a love/hate relationship with the neighborhood scumbags because of it was so tough here.

Back in the day, when I hosted Edmar's Martini Madness Mondays at Maria's, friends from the north side would come down to my mom's dive bar to hang out and drink with me. I would joke with them that Bridgeport was the Community of the Future, if the Future was the apocalypse. We would laugh. We would just hang in the "authenticity" in the twilight zone of a working mans' bar and see the point.

It is hard for me to understand how a concept we started at one of our art festivals would become a reality. It happened at Select Media Festival 4 in October 2005. That concept "Bridgeport: The Community of Future" used the neighborhood as a base of operations and activity for one month to see what would happen if artists and weirdos operated businesses and mounted huge art shows in the area. It was awesome. It was liberating. Even the New York Times covered our festival and printed my quip that "If the Community of the future is the Apocalypse, then its Bridgeport."

That Year we were booted out of our little experimental cultural space, Buddy, in Wicker Park and we left the remains of that neighborhood looking for another home. We couldn't find one. Everything we looked at was too expensive or didn't meet our needs or we were just too tired of living/working together in the same space. I moved back to the Bridgeport neighborhood and was completely shocked at how the housing bubble even affected the prices of buildings in the neighborhood. Mind you this is (was) a solid working class neighborhood that I thought could never be gentrified since the buildings were owned by generations of families. But Sub Prime mania and a proximity to downtown made this one of the last real estate cons in the city.

One day in the spring of 2006 this guy named Victor came into the bar and told me he wanted to sell me a building down the block. The building was old, abandoned, and full of junk. I checked it out. It had possibilities. I went for it. After a near nervous breakdown, tons of money and time it got fixed up and was made awesome. We wound up calling the space The Co-Prosperity Sphere because of a documentary movie we watched about LARP-ing called Darkon, not because of the Japanese Imperialist colonization of East Asia.

I never would have imagined that being gentrified out of Wicker Park would send me back to this neighborhood to make a permanent home and become a reason why someone might be booted out of this neighborhood someday because we raised the rent. I am also confounded that I spend so much time energy and money into settling into this neighborhood and expanding our operations without pause.

But writing this down makes me question what has happened.

Is there destiny? I mean what are the odds that that some random guy would just come in to my mom's bar while I was there and tell me he wanted me to buy his building. And what are the odds that some poor schmuck like me could even get a building?

I often wonder how or why I started believing in my own experiments and propaganda. Does it affect my judgement? Am i in some denial? Am I too privileged? Am I just lucky? Or did I have something to do with this?

Anyways in the span of a few years, the neighborhood has become the 4th or 5th most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the city. Remember it was once the bastion of racism and hate. And since we moved in and opened our doors:

A coffee shop opened across the street from my mother's bar. Our abandoned building is now a leading art palace for the experimental and emerging art scenes in the city. I see hipsters walking around alongside gangbangers. Universities are sending their students here to investigate and research the changing environment.

Today I count eight new art spaces that have opened in the last year. And artists that live here have even created the Bridgeport Art District (aka B.A.D.).

If we are going buck the trend of gentrification that happened everywhere else in Chicago I believe it will be due to the neighborhood's mutant history. And the fact that we are no where near any mass transportation. I thank the real economic apocalypse for making this place safe, for the time being. But then again maybe we are the bringers of apocalyptic change to all those hateful elements that gave this neighborhood such a bad reputation. At least I hope so.

I looked at the original Select Media Festival website from 2005 and each year thereafter. I am copying and pasting Introductory statements from each year.

It's interesting to see how we made this happen.

October 2005 – Select Media Festival 4

October 20 thru November 13, 2005

We present the annual **Select Media Festival** in an attempt to highlight a few of the threads that makes our city a fantastic cultural diaspora for emerging art and counter-cultural activity. In an ongoing exploration of emerging art movements and independent networks in contemporary art and media, this year we find ourselves in the Community of the Future, formally known as Bridgeport. We're navigating underused urban geography for our festival activities, now in their fourth year, within the theme "secret histories and imagined futures."

October 2006 – Select Media Festival 5

The fifth annual **Select Media Festival** features video programs, brand new media, anti-comedy, installations, performance programs, and public projects in conjunction with experimental and advanced music. Our goal is to share innovative projects in art and technology as well as socially charged work. The festival is produced by Public Media Institute, and organized by artists, musicians and activists from Chicago.



The 2008 Art Shanty Project artists and the Giant Robot Shanty line up on Medicine Lake in front of the Pinhole Shanty for a community portrait.



Nice and toasty inside the S.U.R.V.I.V.A.L. Shanty during ASP08.

Select Media Festival 5 opens October 13th and runs through October 23rd in venues across the city. This year we are forming a DIY Media Academy to hone skills on a number of things we think everyone should be doing - that includes making cable access TV shows, starting alt.spaces, creating Videos and music, making personal media archives, learning a few secret histories, and figuring out how to become a little bit more environmentally conscious on a budget.

We are pleased to invite you to view our current project; a 5600 sq ft storefront we acquired to become a permanent base of operations for a group of media projects, artist initiatives, musical entities and activists. Although its far from finished we think sharing our current space might give you the opportunity to tell us what you would like to happen in a free zone of radical cultural and artistic activity. The space will be managed by the Public Media Institute, the non profit that brings you Select and Version festivals.

November 2007 – Select Media Festival 6

Select Media Festival 6 opens November 9th and runs through November 17th in the experimental cultural center, the Co-Prosperity Sphere, and other venues across the city. The sixth annual media arts festival features video programs, art exhibitions, installations, presentations, a talent show, and performance programs in conjunction with live music and action. The festival is produced by the non-profit arts organization, Public Media Institute, and is organized by artists, musicians and cultural workers based in Chicago.

This year we are transforming our gallery, the Co-Prosperity Sphere into a space colony called CPS1. We feel it is a step towards producing a solution to virtually all the problems rising from the limitations of our earthly environment. For some the CPS1 colony becomes an alternative space of interaction and communication for those seeking the highest achievements of humankind. For others its an art exhibition bathed in black lights. You be the judge.

November 2008 – Select Media Festival 7

Select Media Festival 7 opens November 14th and runs through November 22nd at the experimental cultural center, the Co-Prosperity Sphere, and other venues across the city. The seventh annual festival will feature video programs, art exhibitions, installations and presentations in conjunction with live music and action. This year as part of the festival we are unveiling a new art space, Eastern Expansion and a new monthly art happening for Chicago: The Bridgeport Art District (B.A.D.).

Come and visit if you are in town.

Coming up in April 2009 – Select Media Festival 9

April 23 thru May 3, 2009 in Chicago. No theme yet.

Links to sites of interest.

proximitymagazine.com
Publicmediainstitute.org
Versionfest.org
lumpen.com
lumpentimes.blogspot.com
lumpen.com/CPS/about.html
reubenkincaid.blogspot.com



Participating in the annual Auger Races during ASP07.



This year ASP09 is dedicated to the newest member of the Art Shanty Projects community at large, Kaelani Anna Lee Hoyt. Brand new daughter of the Norae Shanty's #05 founders Mike and Sarah Hoyt.



2009 CALENDAR OF EXHIBITIONS

ART SHANTY PROJECTS 09

17 Jan – 14 Feb

The 6th annual project on Medicine Lake in Plymouth re-imagining ice fishing house as a new form of idealized community designed and staffed by artists.

CLIVE MURPHY

21 Feb – 5 Apr

New York based Irish artist Clive Murphy will fill all 12,000 sq feet of galleries at The Soap Factory with one giant sculpture.

MARCY OPEN SCHOOL ARTS GALA

18 Apr

MCAD MFA SHOW

2 May - 17 May

Reviving a tradition from the mid-90s, The Soap Factory will host the MFA Show at MCAD, giving artists their first taste of working in a real gallery environment.

NOLA; DANGEROUS WATERS

6 Jun – Jul 26

Curated by Jayme McLellen of Civilian Art Projects in Washington DC, this exhibition brings 14 artists from New Orleans, at the end of the Mississippi to the headwaters in Minnesota.

5TH 10 SECOND FILM FESTIVAL

4 July

Our annual festival of mini-movies, now in it's 5th year and open to all.

ARTERY 24 v2.0

24 & 25 Jul

24 hours of continuous performance from emerging performance artists from the Twin Cities and nationwide.

.99¢ SALE

11 & 12 Sep

Now in its 4th year, the .99¢ Sale is a sale, a fundraiser and a puzzle all in one. A sophisticated comment on the market and connoisseurship, The .99¢ Sale is best fun you can have buying art.

ANNUAL SHOW FROM SUBSCRIPTIONS

5 Sep – 25 Oct

Curated by The Soap Factory, this exhibition will showcase the best of our submissions in 2009.

3RD ANNUAL HAUNTED BASEMENT

16 Oct – 1 Nov

The must-see event of Halloween 2007, The Soap Factory's Haunted Basement returns for more scares. Designed and operated by artists Eric Veldey and Liseli Polivka, the Haunted Basement offers genuine fear for a jaded and cynical world.

View Exhibition Pages on all shows at:

soapfactory.org

ARTSHANTY PROJECTS 09

JANUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 14, 2009

Saturday, January 17th OPENING WEEKEND - FIRST DAY ON THE ICE

- 12 - 4 Kari Turning
Scandinavian Folk Tales, Rune Readings - @ Shanty location TBA
- 11 - 4 Performance by Andy Sturdavant
Retroactive Minnesotan Lesson #1 -35 - @ Shanty location TBA
- 11:30 - 1:30 Puppet show by Soozin Hirschmugl
"Frozen" - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2 - 4 Roe Family Singers - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Sunday, January 18th

- 12 - 2 Performance - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2 - 4 Music TBA - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Saturday, January 24th

- 11 - 5 Ice Croquet - various locations around the Shanty Projects
- 11 - 4 Performance by Andy Sturdavant
Retroactive Minnesotan Lesson #1 -35
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 12- 2 A puppet show by Janaki Ranpura
"The Rewards of Patience the Ice Girl"
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2:30 - 4:30 Music- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Sunday, January 25th

- 11 - 1 Puppet show by Soozin Hirschmugl
"Frozen" - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2 - 4 International Novelty Gamelon Orchestra
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Saturday, January 31st

- 12 - 4 Corrie Zoll and John Bueche
Two Ice Holes Talking, an Ice Fishing Talk Show
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 11 - 4 Study in Collaborative Creative Experience
as it Applies to Spontaneous Group Music
- @ IAMER Research Lab Shanty # 18

Sunday, February 1st

- 12- 2 D-Kollie of Kollizm Kamp
HIP HOP / Spoken Word Performance
with Tally Squires Washington
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2 - 4 Music TBA - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

The most current scheduling updates can always be found at:

artshantyprojects.org

Saturday, February 7th

7TH ANNUAL ART CAR PARADE ON THE ICE

- 11 - 4 Performance by Andy Sturdavant
Retroactive Minnesotan Lesson #1 -35 - @ Shanty location TBA
- 12 - 2 Kurt Hunter Marionettes
"Feathers and Strings" - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2:30 - 4:30 Brass Messenger - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Sunday, February 8th

- 12 - 4 Corrie Zoll and John Bueche
Two Ice Holes Talking, an Ice Fishing Talk Show
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

Saturday, February 14th CLOSING DAY - LAST DAY ON THE ICE

- ALL DAY Valentine Making - @ the Art Post Shanty #06
- 11 - 4 Performance by Andy Sturdavant
Retroactive Minnesotan Lesson #1 -35 - @ Shanty location TBA
- 12 - 2 Puppet show by Janaki Ranpura
"The Rewards of Patience the Ice Girl"
- @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01
- 2:30 - 4:30 Music TBA - @ The Black Box Theater Shanty #01

