ART ENVIRONMENT ACTION!
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center
Parsons The New School for Design, 2 West 13th Street, New York
September 27 - December 15, 2012

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE
(Click on workshop name for full description and artist biography)

All events—unless otherwise noted—take place at the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, Parsons The New School for Design, 2 West 13th Street, New York. For events that require advance registration—please visit the SJDC website at www.newschool.edu/sjdc.

SEPTEMBER
September 27: Tattfoo Tan, Raising Urban Chickens
September 28-29: Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science, DIY Aerial Imaging and “Map Knitting”
September 28-October 28: Trade School in residence

OCTOBER
Through October 28: Trade School in residence
October 1-14: Futurefarmers in residence
October 15-19: Ecoarttech in residence
October 22-November 3: Beatriz da Costa in residence
October 29: Michael Mandiberg, Drawing Wikipedia Part 1
October 30: Tattfoo Tan, Making Paper with Junk Mail

NOVEMBER
November 1 and 5: Michael Mandiberg, Drawing Wikipedia Part 2 and 3
November 7 and 8: Red76, This is (an) a front
November 10: Jennifer Monson and Kate Cahill, Thinking on the Ground: Studying the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge through Dance and Design
November 14: Tattfoo Tan, Raising Urban Chickens
November 17: The Cotard Syndicate, The Phantom Economy of Torments: A Workshop in Sensory (mis)perception
November 26: Beverly Naidus, Eco-art: An Antidote to Dystopia
November 27: Beverly Naidus, Eco-art City Block Workshop
November 28-December 15: Jill Sigman/thinkdance in residence, Hut #8
November 29 and December 1: Stephanie Rothenberg (REV-), Coming Soon! Explorations in Urban Renewal from the Physical to the Virtual

DECEMBER
Through December 15: Jill Sigman/thinkdance in residence, Hut #8
December 5: Beehive Design Collective, The True Cost of Coal
December 6: Beehive Design Collective, Graphics for the Commons
PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WORKSHOPS

Beehive Design Collective

The True Cost of Coal
Wednesday, December 5, 6-8 pm
The True Cost of Coal is a collaborative, highly detailed allegorical illustration that depicts the complex history of mountaintop removal coal mining, the most extreme form of surface mining for coal. This piece will be brought to life by the Bees themselves: volunteer activists, storytellers, and educators who use hand-drawn cartoons and stories from grassroots communities to explore the connections between our local, everyday stories and the bigger picture of our historical moment. Emphasizing the resiliency of communities on the frontlines of coal extraction, globalization, and climate change, the Bees highlight global, grassroots, community-led solutions to the energy crisis and invite us to look critically at corporate greenwashing, green consumerism, and top-down strategies that promise more crisis, inequality, and destructive business as usual in the pivotal years to come.

“Graphics for the Commons”
Thursday, December 6, 6-8 pm
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

The Beehive Design Collective will lead a hands-on workshop demonstrating collaborative methods of making "Graphics for the Commons": powerful storytelling images that boost our collaborative idea-generation, the value of graphics to our work, and hands-on collaborative design. Everyone is welcome: YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRAW TO MAKE GREAT GRAPHICS!

The Beehive hums with activity, tackling issues as diverse as biotechnology, corporate globalization, food and agriculture, and colonialism. Our mission is to "cross-pollinate the grassroots" by creating images that educate the public and deconstruct complex geopolitical issues. Our body of work is distributed as “anti-copyright;” individuals and organizations are encouraged to reproduce the graphics for non-profit use as a means of circulating information and awareness. www.beehivecollective.org

The Cotard Syndicate

The Phantom Economy of Torments: A Workshop in Sensory (mis)Perception
Saturday, November 17, 10 am-5 pm
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

Drawing from an ongoing cross-disciplinary art and science research project, this workshop is an exploration of the fallibility and malleability of the senses in order to examine the ways in which urban dwellers respond to their perceived alienation from the “natural.” The Cotard Syndicate proposes that the relationship we hold with the wilderness has become analogous to “phantom limb” syndrome, and through this daylong workshop will lead participants through a range of olfactory, sonic, visual, taste and touch tests that expose the ways in which our senses are influenced and manipulated by those selling ideas, desires, and objects that supposedly re-connect us to natural states.
The Cotard Syndicate is a collaboration of neuroscientist Siddharth Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.; artist Toby Heys, who produces music, sound and video installations and web projects as a member of Battery Operated (www.batteryoperated.net); and Stefani Bardin, an artist working in video, film, installation, and performance.

Beatriz da Costa

The Anti-Cancer-Survival-Kit
October 22-November 2, 2012
The Anti-Cancer-Survival-Kit is a practical and enticing print, online, smartphone, and physical kit for people living with cancer as well as their friends and family. During the two-week residency, da Costa and her team will be working toward the completion of this project, and offering two hybrid presentations/hands-on workshops.

Flavonoid Time! (An Anti-Cancer-Cooking Class)
Wednesday, October 24, 6-8 pm
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

This workshop will offer a brief overview of the different schools and approaches to anti-cancer cuisines, followed by the preparation of a simple anticancer meal. Chef Michelle Fuerst will be leading the cooking portion of this workshop, using affordable and portable cooking equipment such as camping gas stoves and electric plates. This workshop is also related to one of da Costa’s other current projects, The Delicious Apothecary.

Plant Your Own Anti-Cancer Garden
Thursday, October 25, 6-8 pm
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

This workshop will offer a brief introduction into the usage of medicinal anticancer plants, mushrooms, and herbal kitchen staples, followed by the planting of a small number of seeds and seedlings, designed as a take-away kit. Participants will be provided with soil, a selection of seeds, pots, index cards with planting instructions and presumed anti-cancer activities, and carrier boxes. This workshop is related to one of da Costa’s ongoing projects (with Donald Daedalus), The Life Garden.

Beatriz da Costa is an artist based in New York and Los Angeles. Her practice is situated at the intersection of experimental art, social engagement, and the life sciences. da Costa has received numerous grants, awards and residencies from the Creative Capital Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Rhizome. da Costa is an Associate Professor of Art, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science at the University of California, Irvine.

www.beatrizdacosta.net

Ecoarttech

basecamp.exe
October 15-19, 2012
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details
basecamp.exe is an urban campsite and ongoing participatory lab for hikers exploring the wilderness of New York City’s Greenwich Village neighborhood. A meeting place, a platform for dialogue, and a recharging station, basecamp.exe invites participants to contribute to its development through interactive observation and study of the diverse ecological landscape of twenty-first century life. During their weeklong workshop, ecoarttech founders, Leila Nadir and Cary Peppermint, will facilitate three excursions into the environment surrounding the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center (October 16, 17, 18) with their mobile app Indeterminate Hikes+ (IH+), available on Android/iPhone.

Leila Nadir and Cary Peppermint founded ecoarttech in 2005 to explore what it means to be a modern ecological being amidst networked environments, from biological systems to digital networks. Merging primitive with emergent technologies, ecoarttech’s work investigates the overlapping terrain between “nature,” built environments, mobility, and electronic spaces. www.ecoarttech.net

Futurefarmers

Ethnobotanical Station
October 1-October 14, 2012

FUTUREFARMERS AMY FRANCESCHINI AND MYRIEL MILICEVIC WILL BE IN RESIDENCE FOR TWO WEEKS in research and preparation for their project ethnobotanical station at the new york hall of science this fall. An installation and participatory research project, ethnobotanical station draws upon a rich and culturally diverse lineage of knowledge that links humans to plants. Humans have had a complex relationship to plants and have used them for food, clothing, currency, ritual, medicine, dye, construction and cosmetics. In urban life, in particular, much of indigenous plant knowledge is lost. Futurefarmers use an experimental framework to preserve and extend this knowledge through an inventory of distinctive tools, exemplary specimens, and mappings that explore new ways to relate to the plant life around us. Mythology, science fiction and qualitative methods of scientific research are used to regenerate traditional knowledge.

Local Area Seed Network (L.A.S.N), New York
October 4-8, 2012
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

In Norway, the Svalvard Global Seed Bank is being built deep inside a glacier. In Iraq, bombing and looting destroyed Iraq’s National Seedbank, which held some of the world’s oldest strains of wheat and foodstuffs. While the former seedbank prepares for possible disaster, the latter demonstrates the fragility of our limited supply of seed stock. In this workshop, L.A.S.N. performs a new botanical expedition, discovering and interpreting hyper-local flora in New York City. Like early ethnobotanists, participants will catalog, re-classify and re-arrange their findings in order to interpret them and invent new configurations of meaning.

Ethnobotanical Architecture with Studio-X
October 10, 12-13, 2012
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

Imagine small, intricate structures hanging outside your window that efficiently harvest enough night moisture to water your herb garden. Or an array of tiny limbs attached to a tall building that capture moisture from the night sky
and distribute it to a potable water reservoir. Through close examination of how plants photosynthesize, capture moisture and pollinate, a new wave of architectural structures will emerge. This workshop will look closely at native plants at the New York Botanical Garden Herbarium to inform the form, material, and behavior of architecture through a workshop conducted by Future Farmers in collaboration with Nicola Twilley and Janette Kim of Studio X at Columbia University.

Future Farmers is an art and design collective founded by Amy Franceschini, a San Francisco-based artist and educator who uses various media to encourage formats of exchange and production, many times in collaboration with other practitioners (www.futurefarmers.com). Myriel Milicevic is an artist, researcher and interaction designer based in Berlin. Myriel received her MA from the Interaction Design Institute Ivrea, Italy and her diploma in Graphic Design from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam. Nicola Twilley is author of the blog Edible Geography, co-founder of the Foodprint Project, and director of Studio-X NYC, an urban futures network run by Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation, and Planning (http://www.arch.columbia.edu/studiox/newyork). Janette Kim is a faculty member and director of the Urban Landscape Lab at Columbia University GSAPP (http://urbanlandscapelab.org).

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Michael Mandiberg

Drawing for Wikipedia
In collaboration with WikipediaIllustrated.org/Galia Offri and Mushon Zer-Aviv
October 29, November 1 and 5, 6-8 pm

Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

Building on the work of Wikipedia Illustrated (http://www.wikipediaillustrated.org) and others, artist Michael Mandiberg will facilitate a series of three workshops to create images and illustrations for environmentally oriented Wikipedia pages. The goal will be to use visual language to explain complex concepts without over simplifying them. This could range from the factual, such as diagrams of biological or chemical phenomena, maps of environmental issues/disasters, or charts, to the poetic and expressive. Artists, scientists, illustrators, environmental historians, designers, activists, and Wikipedians are invited to this collaborative workshop. No knowledge of Wikipedia editing is required. Participants should bring relevant materials, including but not limited to computers, sketchbooks, and thinking caps.

Michael Mandiberg is an interdisciplinary artist, designer, and scholar whose work employs each of these methodologies to investigate the significance of their overlap. A former Senior Fellow at Eyebeam, he is currently Director of the New York Arts Practicum, Associate Professor at the College of Staten Island/CUNY, and a member of the Doctoral Faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center. He lives in, and rides his bicycle around, Brooklyn.

www.Mandiberg.com

Jennifer Monson and Kate Cahill

Thinking on the Ground: Studying the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge through Dance and Design
Saturday, November 10, 6 am-5 pm
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

This site-specific workshop led by choreographer Jennifer Monson and architect Kate Cahill, includes a morning walk that draws on collaborative practices created in SIP (sustained immersive process) between Monson, Cahill, composer Chris Cogburn, and dance maker Maggie Bennett, as well as Monson’s on-going practice developed with Welsh environmental movement artist Simon Whitehead. Informed by sensory and perceptual awareness exercises, scientific observation, and the natural history of the location, participants will create simple movement, listening and compositional exercises that continually shift our point of view as we experience the refuge.

Jennifer Monson uses choreographic practice as a means to discover connections between environmental, philosophical, and aesthetic approaches to knowledge and understandings of our surroundings. As artistic director of iLAND (interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature and Dance) she creates large-scale dance projects informed and inspired by phenomena of the natural and the built environment. Kate Cahill arrived in the world of architecture through a will to combine her love of chemistry and art. She is fascinated by the intersections of social, political, and infrastructural systems in cities, and believes that urban public space is enriched by architecture that brings clarity to these complex interactions. Recent projects include a recipe for a low-cost, off-grid artist residence based on locally available scavenged materials. http://ilandsymposium.wordpress.com/

Beverly Naidus

Eco-art: An Antidote to Dystopia
Monday, November 26, 6:30 pm (lecture)
Tuesday, November 27, 10-2 pm (workshop)

Reservation required; please visit http://www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

A city block will become our laboratory for addressing the ecological crisis. Participants will engage in a variety of creative practices to limber their imaginations and provoke interactive art. We will use walking meditation, journaling, and collaborative tools such as action/research to stoke our creative fires. We will explore concepts from social ecology, permaculture design and look at ways to transform the dystopic moment we are living in. We will conclude with proposals and questions to bring back to our communities. The previous evening, November 26, Naidus will give an introduction to the field of eco-art and a discussion about how community-based art practices have evolved.

Beverly Naidus has been using art to dream, question, stir things up, and find community for a few decades. She’s been teaching others to do the same for almost as long. Internationally recognized for her art, she is also the author of Arts for Change: Teaching Outside the Frame (New Village Press, 2009). (www.artsforchange.org) Naidus is currently a member of the faculty of the University of Washington, Tacoma, where she has created and facilitates a unique interdisciplinary studio curriculum in art for social change and healing.

OPENRestaurant with Jerome Waag

Looking for Cod in New York City: A Human Ecology of the Atlantic Ocean
November 28-29, 2012
Once upon a time, the coastal waters of the north Atlantic were teeming with fish. As the Europeans discovered these waters, on their way to the New World, its principal resource, cod, became a staple of their diet. In this two-day workshop, we will spend the first day meandering through New York City, tracking these culinary delicacies and their cultural context, looking for traces of cod’s history, encountering places and people, collecting artifacts and produce to create a diverse cultural pantry. On the second evening, we will then use this pantry to create some of the dishes we have learned about. While we are preparing, cooking and sampling these foods, we will reflect on the history of this fish, the commercial exchanges that it facilitated, the cultures that it created, and the whole human ecology that finally led to the cod’s disappearance.

OPENrestaurant originated as the project of a collective of restaurant professionals who moved their environment to an art space as a way to experiment with the language of their daily activities. This displacement turns the restaurant, its codes and architecture, into a medium for artistic expression, which is made available to cooks, farmers, artists, educators and activists as a way to explore issues around food and society. OPENrestaurant was started by Stacie Pierce, Jerome Waag and Sam White, all part of the Chez Panisse restaurant staff and now includes Amanda Eicher, Sasha Wizansky, Chris Sollars, Valerie Imus, Howie Correa, Kelly Ishikawa and many others as regular collaborators. http://openrestaurant.org/

Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science

DIY Aerial Imaging and “Map Knitting”
Friday, September 28, 10 am - 4 pm, and Saturday, September 29, 9 am - 12 pm
Reservation required; please visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc for details

Maps are often used by those in power to exert influence over territory, or control territorial narratives. "Grassroots mapping" attempts to invert this dynamic by using maps as a mode of communication and as evidence for an alternative, community-owned definition of a territory. In this workshop, join the Public Laboratory to create an aerial mapping rig, imaging a public area in the city, and reporting our results. We will set up a camera to take pictures on interval, build crash housing for the camera out of a cranberry juice, wind 1,000 feet of line onto a reel, tie a butterfly loop and Palomar knot in the line, and fly kites or balloons to lift the cameras up into the air. Once we have images, we will upload them into mapknitter.org and position them over existing satellite imagery.

The Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science (PLOTS) is a community that develops and applies open-source tools to environmental exploration and investigation. http://publiclaboratory.org

Red 76

THIS IS (AN) A FRONT: Power2012
Wednesday and Thursday, November 7 and 8, 7-10 pm
How does space dictate our relationships with one another? How does it engage, reflect, and manage the power we hold and the power held over us? THIS IS (AN) A FRONT, an on-going Red76 initiative, asks us to consider our daily relationship to power in all forms, from our parents to our siblings, friends, lovers, strangers, cops, and world leaders alike. Red76 will create several temporary spaces of non-hierarchical engagement, at either a domestic or shuttered commercial space, where through a range of experiential workshop activity, including discussion, music,
text, radio broadcasts, we, as members of diverse publics, will imagine how we might create equitable future sites of growth.

Red76 initiatives utilize overlooked histories and common shared occurrences as a means of creating a framework in which to construct their public inquiries. The group, often in flux and geographically dispersed, is the moniker for initiatives most often conceived by Sam Gould, and collaboratively realized with the assistance of Gabriel Mindel-Saloman, Dylan Gauthier, Zefrey Throwell, Dan S. Wang, Mike Wolf, Courtney Dailey, Laura Baldwin, and many others.  

http://www.red76.com/

Stephanie Rothenberg in collaboration with REV- and BRAC

Coming Soon! Explorations in Urban Renewal from the Physical to the Virtual
Friday, November 30, 9 am-5 pm, and Saturday, December 1, 10 am - 3 pm
Coming Soon! is a mixed-reality urban walking tour enabled through smart phones and iPads that explores the visible and invisible traces of urban renewal in the West Farms neighborhood of the Bronx, an area experiencing rapid regeneration. On November 30, participants will use mobile devices to take an urban tour to learn about this recently rezoned area, one of the largest in the borough, which is slated for redevelopment into a $350 million mixed-use planned community encompassing over five acres of land. A short presentation from the development company will be followed by a visit to the Bronx River Art Center where we will engage in conversation with local residents. On the second day, participants will learn how to create augmented reality content based on the previous day's tour using texts, photos, drawing and digital tools that enable 2D and 3D graphics to be virtually superimposed into physical spaces. Then viewed through the camera lens of a smart phone or other mobile device the effect is a mixed reality experience, merging the virtual with the real.

Coming Soon! is an ongoing project produced by REV-, an organization founded in 2009 that furthers socially engaged art, design, and pedagogy, in conjunction with the Bronx River Art Center's Virtual Monumental Program that explores the shifting landscape of the West Farms neighborhood in the Bronx. Stephanie Rothenberg is an artist and educator who uses performance, installation, and networked media to create provocative interactions that question the boundaries and social constructs of manufactured desires. She has lectured and exhibited at venues including the Whitney Museum of American Art Artport; Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art; Sundance Film Festival; 2nd Moscow International Biennale for Young Art; and LABoral Art, and Industrial Creation Center in Gijon, Spain (http://www.pan-o-matic.com). BRAC (Bronx River Art Center) is a culturally diverse, multi-arts, non-profit organization that provides a forum for community, artists, and youth to transform creativity into vision (http://bronxriverart.org).

Jill Sigman/thinkdance

Hut #8
November 28-December 15, 2012
Movement Ritual for Hut #8 (live performance): Thursday, December 13, 7 pm
Tea and Conversation: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 11 and 12, 3-6pm
Hut #8 will be built by choreographer Jill Sigman from discarded plastic bottles sourced on the New School campus. It is part of The Hut Project, a series of site-specific structures made from found and re-purposed materials. Ambiguous structures in which the concepts of dwelling, sculpture, and “emergency preparedness kit” meet, the huts raise questions about waste, sustainability, shelter, real estate and home. Hut #8 will underscore the ubiquitousness of disposable plastics in our daily environment. Each hut acts as a catalyst for performances,
collaborations, community dialogues, movement improvisation, micro-agriculture, and the serving of tea. Previous huts have been built in various parts of New York City; Troy, NY; and Oslo, Norway. The public is invited to contribute plastic bottles to the installation; collection will be ongoing through the duration of the exhibition. On December 11 and 12, join Sigman in Hut #8 for tea and talk about waste, disposability, sustainability, and ritual.

Founded in 1998, jill sigman/thinkdance exists at the complex crossroads of dance, visual installation, live art, and theater. Often through non-traditional environments, formats, and game structures, viewers are asked to think about pressing issues in the world around them. jill sigman/thinkdance has been produced by such New York venues as Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Dancing in the Streets, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Arts@Renaissance, The 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and Dixon Place, and has appeared regionally and internationally in such places as a dilapidated Belgian printing house, a former arsenal in Croatia, the American Embassy in New Delhi, and the Norwegian Opera House in Oslo. Jill Sigman has been making dances and performance installations since the early 90s. www.thinkdance.org

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Tattfoo Tan

Raising Urban Chickens
Thursday, September 27, Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

5 p.m. (Poop Machine) are a collective of chickens based in Staten Island consisting of two Silver-laced Wyandotte, two Easter Eggers (who lay green eggs!) and a Light Brahma. In this workshop, artist Tattfoo Tan and a member of the collective will lead a workshop on raising an urban flock -- great companion pets, great eggs and great manure fertilizer for your garden. Come by and meet the collective, then follow their egg count on-line.

Making Paper with Junk Mail
Tuesday, October 30, 6:30-8:30 pm
The average person receives 560 pieces of junk mail a year. This workshop will help you transform your junk mail into sheets of beautiful recycled paper.

Tattfoo Tan’s art practice seeks to find an immediate, direct, and effective way of exploring issues related to the individual in society through which to collapse the categories of ‘art’ and ‘life’ into one. Tan’s work has been shown in various venues and institutions including; Queens Museum of Art, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Artisphere, The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The Center for Book Arts, Bronx River Art Center, and Jamaica Center of Arts and Learning. http://www.tattfoo.com/

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Trade School

September 28-October 28, 2012
Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 6- 9 pm; Saturdays-Sundays: 12-6 pm

Trade School is an alternative school that runs on barter. Students pay for classes with barter items like food, artwork, and services -- not money. Trade School started in New York in 2010 and has grown into a network of over 25 self-organized Trade Schools around the world. Trade School New York has expanded as well, and is now organized by the following collective: Aimee Lutkin, Christian Diaz, Louise Ma, Rich Watts, Caroline Woolard, Or Zubalsky, Megan Snowe, Lydia Dresser, Alex Velozo, and Rachel Steinberg. Trade School is open when space is
donated or bartered with Trade School. Previous venue gifts/exchanges have come from Grand Opening, a closed Catholic school, General Assembly, Cuchifritos, the Whitney Museum, and the Museum of Art and Design. Trade School New York is currently seeking a permanent location. For information and registration for classes taking place at the SJDC, visit http://tradeschool.coop/newyork.