

Constellations of Advocacy

Presented by Common Practice Los Angeles

Common Practice Los Angeles presents a series of discussions in 2015 and 2016 on current efforts by artists, curators, educators, students, writers and other cultural producers to transform the relations and conditions of their activities within the LA art context.

Unionizing Part-time Faculty at Otis College of Art and Design: A Discussion with Andrea Bowers, Joshua Callaghan, Sara Daleiden, Jenaba Kamara, Rebecca Kimmel, and Jessica Minckley

LA><ART, 7000 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90038

Sunday, October 4, 2015, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to rsvp@laxart.org

In collaboration with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the Otis Union Movement is currently engaged in negotiations that address issues of job security, equitable living wages, and health-care in their efforts to unionize Part-time faculty at the Otis College of Art and Design. Members of the bargaining group, including current faculty at Otis, will discuss the process and goals of their specific labor negotiations. In discussing the particular relations and conditions at Otis, the panel will also reflect on how their efforts may have wider implications for the current socio-economic struggles facing MFA programs and academic institutions in the US. Following the bargaining groups' presentation, significant time will be provided for attending publics to join the discussion with their own questions and perspectives on the negotiations at Otis, as well as the current crisis of precarity and alienation within art schools and academia broadly.

About Common Practice Los Angeles:

Common Practice Los Angeles is an advocacy group that fosters research, discussions, and events that examine the current role and histories of small and mid-scale arts organizations in Los Angeles. The founding members of Common Practice Los Angeles are East of Borneo, Human Resources, LACE, LA><ART, the MAK Center, REDCAT, and X-TRA / Project X. Founded in 2013, Common Practice LA collectively addresses the particular challenges and advantages claimed by arts organizations in Los Angeles. Through inter-organizational research, discussions, and programming, Common Practice LA is a hub for practitioners reflecting on the city's expansive and divergent constellation of artist communities and sites for art's reception. A laterally stretching fragmented cityscape, the built environment of Los Angeles presents unique challenges for small and mid-scale arts organizations and their publics. Factors including the adaptability of large institutions to exhibiting project-oriented art, diminished funding for long-term support of artists' practices, the ever encroaching commercial landscape, the increasing compartmentalization of arts districts, and the shifting needs of area art schools amplify continued conversations facing arts organizations in Los Angeles. Though our organizations continue to at times negotiate these questions independently, Common Practice LA recognizes the need to discuss these questions through collaborative efforts that would not be possible by self-sufficient means. Common Practice LA draws inspiration from Common Practice and Common Practice NY, affiliated advocacy groups working for the recognition and fostering of the small and mid-scale contemporary visual arts sectors in London and New York. Common Practice is founder of the Common Practice Network.