The Miller Gallery and the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon Host a Symposium on Alternative Geography and Mapping Technology, Jan. 28 - 30

PITTSBURGH — The Miller Gallery and the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University will host the “Contestational Cartographies Symposium,” introducing the thoughts of leading “experimental geographers” who employ mapping techniques in new ways and help us ‘read between the lines’ of the world around us. Contestational Cartographies symposium is open to the public and will be held Jan. 28 – 30. Most events are free of admission.

“Maps represent, maps reveal, maps entice and maps distort,” said Golan Levin, director of the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry. “They selectively omit, they unwittingly exaggerate and they even make outright lies. Though maps strive to project authority and objectivity, they cannot help but embed the biases, blind-spots and idiosyncrasies of their human authors.” This symposium will investigate the ways maps are creatively used in critical practice and cultural research, and how they influence our understanding of the world and our place within it. Details: http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery/contestationalcartographies

Schedule:

Thurs. Jan. 28, 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Trevor Paglen Lecture and Book Signing, “Blank Spots on a Map”
At McConomy Auditorium, University Center, Carnegie Mellon campus. Paglen has methodically amassed rich visual evidence for military installations, secret prisons in Afghanistan and a collection of even more obscure “black sites” startlingly close to home. Here, Paglen takes us on a road trip through the world of hidden budgets, state secrets, covert bases and more guiding us through a landscape that intelligence insiders call the “black world.” Co-presented with the Carnegie Mellon School of Art Lecture Series.

Jan. 28, 8-10 p.m.
“Information Mapping” Dorkbot with Chris Harrison and Susanne Slavick
$7 tickets pre-sale, $10 at the door
At Brillobox upstairs, 4104 Penn Ave at Main, Lawrenceville. Slavick (Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon) is painter whose response to cartographies is manipulating and abstracting real and imagined space. Harrison is a Ph.D. student in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. Co-presented with Dorkbot Pittsburgh.
Jan. 29, 12 p.m.
Experimental Geography: Exhibition tour with artists Lize Mogel and Trevor Paglen
At Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts, Carnegie Mellon campus.

Jan. 29, 1-2 p.m.
Closing Reception, Experimental Geography exhibition with refreshments
At Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts Carnegie Mellon’s campus.

Jan. 29, 5 p.m.
The World as a World Map: Lecture and Book Signing by Lize Mogel
At STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Mellon campus. As technology and commerce blur more and more geographic boundaries, the iconic world map cannot adequately describe the intricacies of globalization. In this lecture, Mogel presents radical cartography projects that question and re-think familiar representations of the world.

Jan. 29, 6 p.m.
At STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, College of Fine Arts Building, Carnegie Mellon campus.

Jan. 30, 12-2 p.m.
Make a Video Microscope from a Hacked Webcam: Workshop, with Rich Pell
At STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, College of Fine Arts Building. $20 admission includes a webcam. Attendees will learn how to turn a cheap, off-the-shelf webcam into a video microscope that works with common video streaming programs like Skype and iChat. Guests will use the webcams to explore the microbial life forms that are currently living around and on us and share the results on the web. Presented in connection to the UCLA BioOutlaws Conference.

Jan. 30, 3-5 p.m.
Basic Geographic Information Systems for Artists, Activists and Naturalists: Workshop, with Jessica McPherson
At Baker Hall #140F, Carnegie Mellon’s campus. $15, ages 14 and up.
McPherson, a plant ecologist, journalist, and activist, will show participants how to use GIS to re-envision traditional mapping and display vital information about the state of the natural world.

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Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University supports the creation, understanding and growth of contemporary art through exhibitions, projects, lectures, events and publications. The gallery aspires to engage diverse audiences and to create and strengthen communities through art and ideas. The Miller Gallery is the contemporary art gallery of Carnegie Mellon University and is a unit of the College of Fine Arts. It is located in the Purnell Center for the Arts on Carnegie Mellon campus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Miller Gallery is open to the public from Tuesday through Sunday, 12-6 p.m. Admission is free. www.cmu.edu/millergallery

Carnegie Mellon is a private research university with a distinctive mix of programs in engineering, computer science, robotics, business, public policy, fine arts and the humanities. More than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students receive an education characterized by its focus on creating and implementing solutions for real problems, interdisciplin ary collaboration, and innovation. A small student-to-faculty ratio provides an opportunity for close interaction between students and professors. While technology is pervasive on its 144-acre Pittsburgh campus, Carnegie Mellon is also distinctive among leading research universities for the world-renowned programs in its College of Fine Arts. A global university, Carnegie Mellon has campuses in Silicon Valley, Calif., and Qatar, and programs in Asia, Australia and Europe. For more, see www.cmu.edu.