

# YOUR ★ TOWN, INC.

**MILLER**  
GALLERY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY  
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**Big Box Reuse with Julia Christensen**  
Curated by Astria Suparak  
Aug. 29 - Nov. 23, 2008

➤ **Hometown BBQ Reception**  
Sept. 19, Fri. 6 - 8pm

**Carnegie Mellon University Lecture Series**  
*Big Box Reuse* Presentation + Book Signing  
Nov. 13, Thurs. 4:30 - 6pm

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### RELATED:

- **Worlds Away: New Suburban Landscapes**  
Carnegie Museum of Art, Oct. 2008 - Jan. 2009
- **Society for Photographic Education** Mid-Atlantic Conference, Nov. 7 - 9, 2008

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION:

Big box buildings have increasingly dominated the American landscape since the 1960s. Author, artist, and researcher Julia Christensen spent the last six years studying these monolithic, free-standing structures and their resulting effects on our culture. In *Your Town, Inc.*, the Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University will exhibit photographs and new installation work examining how communities are changing in the shadow of corporate real estate.

Seventy-eight photographs from Christensen's forthcoming book, *Big Box Reuse* (MIT Press, Nov. 2008), illustrate the ways in which communities throughout the United States creatively re-employ the structures constructed and abandoned by multinational corporations, such as Wal-Mart and Kmart. Resulting endeavors include: justice center, megachurch, senior resource center, elementary school, and flea market.

For this exhibition, Christensen fabricated an architectural construction as a reaction and response to the big box concept. Her *UnBox* demonstrates characteristics opposed to megastore values and conventions, and will be activated for creative and social uses. The building can enable discussion about urgent issues such as sustainability, user-friendliness, and reusability.

*Your Town, Inc.* explores the state of our built environment. Between the photographs, *UnBox* building, and parking lot setting, the audience will be asked to think critically about how their own town has changed in light of corporate real estate. And ultimately, the question will be posed: how can you reclaim power over the design of your town's future?

### COMING UP AT THE MILLER GALLERY:

#### KEEP IT SLICK: Infiltrating Capitalism with The Yes Men

Curated by Astria Suparak  
**Portland, OR:** Sept. 4 - Oct. 26, 2008  
@ Feldman Gallery, Pacific Northwest College of Art  
**Pittsburgh, PA:** Nov. 14, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2009  
@ Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University

#### SIGNS OF CHANGE: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to the Present

Guest curated by Dara Greenwald and Josh MacPhee  
**New York, NY:** Sept. 20 - Nov. 22, 2008 @ Exit Art  
**Pittsburgh, PA:** Jan. 23 - March 8, 2009  
@ Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University

MILLER

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The Miller Gallery was founded by Regina Gouger Miller in 2000. The exhibitions and programs are supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the School of Art and the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University.

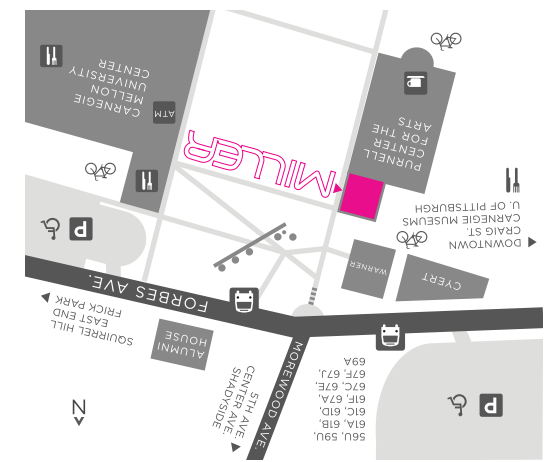
Design: Margaret Cox Printing: Recycled and soy-based inks  
Image: J. Christensen, *Spam Museum, renovated Kmart building, Austin, Minnesota*

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