YOUR TOWN, INC.

Big Box Reuse with Julia Christensen
Curated by Astra Suparak
Aug. 29 - Nov. 23, 2008

Hometown BBQ Reception
Sept. 19, Fri. 5 - 8pm

Carnegie Mellon University Lecture Series
Big Box Reuse Presentation + Book Signing
Nov. 13, Thurs. 4:30 - 6pm
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RELATED:
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- 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
@ Furman Gallery, Pacific Northwest College of Art
@ Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University

SIGNS OF CHANGE: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to the Present
Guest curated by Sara Greenwald and Josh MacPhee
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Pittsburgh, PA: Jan. 23 – March 8, 2009
@ Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University

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