



**KEEP
IT
SLICK**

MILLER

GALLERY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
PURNELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS • 5000 FORBES AVE
PITTSBURGH PA • 412.268.3618 • WWW.CMU.EDU/MILLERGALLERY

KEEP IT SLICK:
Infiltrating Capitalism
with The Yes Men

Curated by Astria Suparak
Nov. 14, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2009

> **Nov. 14, Fri.**

**5pm: How To Be A Yes Man
Workshop** with film clips from their
upcoming movie. Presented by Carnegie
Mellon School of Art Lecture Series.
Miller Gallery, 2nd floor.

6-8pm: Business Casual Reception
Miller Gallery, 3rd floor.

> **Dec. 4, Thurs.**

8pm: The Yes Men Movie
Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Melwood Screening
Room, 447 Melwood Ave at Baum Blvd.

KEEP IT SLICK

Infiltrating Capitalism with The Yes Men

Reaching countless people through websites, newspapers, and television broadcasts, the sometimes anonymous Yes Men are among the most visible and effective artist-activists of our time. Over the past decade they have fearlessly taken on the world's biggest corporations and bureaucracies through a process they call "Identity Correction." Masquerading as official representatives at business conferences and on the news, they have helped keep critical issues in the international spotlight. "Unlike Identity Theft, which criminals practice with dishonest intent," The Yes Men clarify, "Identity Correction is the art of impersonating a powerful criminal to publicly humiliate them for conspiring against the public good."

Infiltrating the elite realm of the influential and the moneyed, cloaked in the sheerest layer of authority - thrift-store suits, quick-print business cards, forged press releases - these social activators urge us to question where ethics belong in our capitalist-driven society.

This survey represents the first-ever solo exhibition of The Yes Men. Here you can walk into a re-creation of their past exploits in the Conference area, witness a comically apocalyptic future, and pay your respects to a janitor who generously donated his body to satisfy our insatiable energy needs. In the Executive Board Room, you may browse through the Yes Men's personal office items and orate along to their absurd PowerPoint presentations.

In all of their exploits, The Yes Men hold a mirror up to faceless, corporate power. They do this not only to mock its acute disconnect with the real needs of people, but also to rouse to action the individuals who uphold this structure—i.e. all of us. They push the limits of taste, **forcing us to define our ethical boundaries and reaffirm our agency, a vitally important task in an era of eroding civil rights** and marketing campaigns that obfuscate what democracy means.

In the tradition of the Situationists, through lurid satire reminiscent of Jonathan Swift and Mark Twain, strategies of tactical media like those of the Critical Art Ensemble, institutional critique a la the Guerilla Girls, Hans Haacke, and Ant Farm, or public performances akin to those of Abbie Hoffman, Adrian Piper, and the Reverend Billy, the Yes Men seek to incite change.

Above all, they urge us to do something better.

COMING UP

SIGNS OF CHANGE: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to Now

Guest curated by Dara Greenwald + Josh MacPhee

New York, NY: Through Nov. 22, 2008 @ Exit Art

Pittsburgh, PA: Jan. 23 - March 8, 2009 @ Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University

LAST CHANCE

YOUR TOWN, INC.: Big Box Reuse with Julia Christensen

Through Nov. 23, 2008

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

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To update your address or sign up for email/facebook announcements, go to: www.cmu.edu/millergallery

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Organized by Miller Gallery
at Carnegie Mellon University +
Feldman Gallery at Pacific Northwest
College of Art

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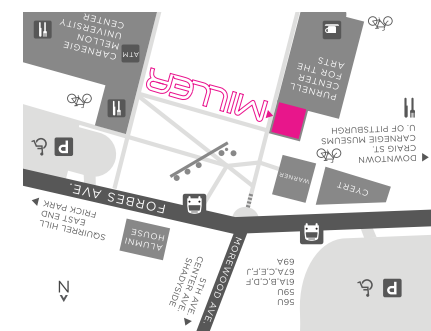


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To update your address or sign up for email/facebook announcements, go to: www.cmu.edu/millergallery
New hours: Tues.-Sun. 12-6pm
412.268.5618 • miller-gallery@andrew.cmu.edu
5000 FORBES AVE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
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The 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.

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