

# FRANKLIN STREET WORKS

## CALL FOR MATERIALS

(DIGITAL OR HARD COPIES ACCEPTED)

THE CURATORS OF “**WORKING ALTERNATIVES: BREAKING BREAD, ART BROADCASTING AND COLLECTIVE ACTION**” ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO BUILD AN OPEN ARCHIVE THAT PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO WHAT SOCIALLY ENGAGED COLLECTIVES IN THE U.S. ARE UP TO!

SUBMITTED MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS TO INVESTIGATE IN AN ARCHIVE-INSPIRED INSTALLATION. FRANKLIN STREET WORKS’ CREATIVE DIRECTOR, ALONG WITH INVITED GUEST CURATORS, WILL MAKE CHANGING MINI-EXHIBITIONS FROM ARCHIVE MATERIALS EACH WEEK AS PART OF THIS ORIGINAL EXHIBITION AT FRANKLIN STREET WORKS, STAMFORD, CT, OCTOBER 27, 2012 – JANUARY 13, 2013

WE WILL ADD MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE SHOW’S RUN, BUT HOPE TO RECEIVE MUCH OF IT BEFORE **OCTOBER 27.**

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### SUBMITTING

To send digital files or request a large SASE bubble envelope:  
[Terri@franklinstreetworks.org](mailto:Terri@franklinstreetworks.org)

Send by post to: Terri C Smith, Creative Director, Franklin Street Works, 45 Franklin St., Stamford, CT 06901

One of three components in the co-curated exhibition, “Working Alternatives,” is an active archive, which will be stationed at Franklin Street Works from October 27, 2012 – January 13, 2013. It will feature materials from self-identified socially and/or politically active art collectives in the United States.

There are relatively recent examples of exhibitions and projects that overlap in some ways with this archive/alternative space concept, consequently, curator, Terri C Smith sees this archive as an addition to that scholarship/investigation – as an exploratory moment designed to take the pulse of artist collective activity today. Taking her cue from the history of PAD/D and the Gregory Sholette book *Dark Matter*, Smith hopes to receive materials that document the activities of collectives self-identified as politically or socially committed alternatives to commercial and not-for-profit art spaces. In the wake of a renewed interest in connecting ideas of art and labor (with groups like W.A.G.E.) as well as artist activities surrounding political groundswells such as O.W.S, this is an exciting time for collective artist action and is worthy of further exploration. Limiting the collectives (as well as the other themes in *Working Alternatives*) to the United States is largely a logistical decision based on time and budget constraints.

“PAD/D’s Archive collects documentation of international socially concerned and involved art from the left.” -- from Political Art Documentation/Distribution brochure, ca. 1984.

*INSPIRED, IN PART, BY THE PAD/D’S ORGANIC COLLECTION OF ART COLLECTIVE MATERIALS DURING THE 1980S, THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT ART SPACE FRANKLIN STREET WORKS IS EXPLORING WHAT SOCIALLY OR POLITICALLY ENGAGED COLLECTIVES IN THE UNITED STATES DO NOW.*

*WHAT IS YOUR COLLECTIVE SAYING, MAKING, DISTRIBUTING, PERFORMING, PROVOKING, ETC?*

Franklin Street Works wants to make submitting materials as easy and as affordable as possible and **we can provide stamped envelopes** to groups upon request for the mailing of original materials. We also will accept digital files (video, photos, documents, etc.) with a note from the collective saying we have permission to reproduce the materials for the archive and with any additional instructions. **PLEASE NOTE:** While we hope to explore the possibilities of traveling this archive so it has a life after the exhibition, we do not have a final home for these documents. Therefore, please either send reproductions, digital files for us to print or, if you would like to send originals, provide an addressed envelope for return of materials if you want them back.

### **What would we like to include?**

Of course ... surprise us! But here are some thoughts.... As part of this project we would like to make small, one-week exhibitions using archive materials. Therefore video documentation of performances, events, interventions etc., audio interviews or sound pieces, posters, mailers, newsletters, buttons, and any other materials (art or communication pieces) you create to get your message out, are the types of materials we are hoping to share with our audiences. Ideally these things need to fit into a manila file that will be housed in an archival box. This means large-scale sheets of paper might be folded and three-dimensional objects could be problematic. We cannot insure, and therefore cannot be responsible for, damage of documents and objects in transit via post but will do due diligence in protectively packing documents for return shipping. For questions or concerns, please email Terri at [terri@franklinstreetworks.org](mailto:terri@franklinstreetworks.org) or contact her via cell phone at 203-253-0404.

### **EXHIBITION**

*Working Alternatives: Breaking Bread, Art Broadcasting and Collective Action* is an exploration of alternative art space approaches through the lenses of communal food events, news media as artistic platform, and the action of socially engaged artist collectives. Franklin Street Works' mission as a not-for-profit art organization is formed, in part, by this rich history of alternative art spaces in New York and beyond. *Working Alternatives* asks, among other questions, "What alternative approaches in cultural production have influenced art as we know it today?" For the exhibition, curators Mackenzie Schneider, Terri C Smith, and Jess Wilcox explore three threads of alternative art platforms and production: artists using media such as radio, television, and newspapers as alternative venues for presenting work (Schneider); conviviality and food as components in alternative art space programming and mission (Wilcox); and artist collectives presented in a living archive with weekly changing exhibitions using archive materials (Smith). The exhibition also includes original artworks by contemporary artists that reflect and expand on the show's themes. Artists include: Paul Branca, Jaime Davidovich, ESP TV, Group Material, Ann Hirsch, Tom Marioni, Anna Ostoya, Legacy Russell, Chris Sollars and Jerome Waag. Franklin Street Works is collaborating on several off-site artworks, including partnering with WPKN (Bridgeport, CT) on a live radio broadcast of an Ann Hirsch performance and with the Stamford Advocate, which will print four collages by Anna Ostoya in their ad space during the run of the exhibition.

### **VENUE**

**Franklin Street Works** is an alternative, not-for-profit art space in Stamford, Connecticut. Since opening in September of 2011, we have created six original exhibitions featuring 65 artists and have hosted more than 22 interdisciplinary art events. Our contemporary art programming is largely dedicated to emerging artists and to informing a growing audience about contemporary art today with an emphasis on social and post-studio practices. As part of educating visitors and providing valuable contexts on contemporary art, our exhibitions and support materials often touch on the rich histories surrounding conceptual art practices, alternative art spaces, and other influences on Franklin Street

Works' mission and programming. We're new, scrappy, and proud of our provocative role in the regional art scene! We also run a café that supports our mission and creates a casual space for open discussion of art, culture, and life. Find out more at: <http://www.franklinstreetworks.org/> We can also be found on facebook, tumblr, vimeo, youtube, and twitter.