

ARMORY

For Immediate Release: August 25, 2015

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Exhibition: Women's Center for Creative Work
Parlor at the Armory: The World That Begins Where Our Skin Ends
Exhibition Dates: September 26, 2015 through January 3, 2016
Opening Reception: Saturday, September 26, 2015, 6-8pm
Location: Armory Center for the Arts, Mezzanine Galleries
145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Parlor at the Armory: The World That Begins Where Our Skin Ends

A multi-artist residency

**organized by the Women's Center for Creative Work
at the Armory Center for the Arts.**

Pasadena, CA – The Women's Center for Creative Work (WCCW) will be in residence in the Armory's Mezzanine Galleries from September 27, 2015 through January 3, 2016 with the multi-artist residency, *Parlor at the Armory: The World That Begins Where Our Skin Ends*, which will investigate the space between the personal and the public. The residency will run concurrently with the *Fearful Symmetries*, the first retrospective of the influential feminist artist Faith Wilding. An opening reception, free and open to the public, will take place on Saturday, September 26, from 6-8pm.

The parlor traditionally exists as a liminal boundary between the private rooms in the home and the public space of the street. This is the very inception of the world that begins where our skin ends — the place for formulating exchanges between our public and private selves. *Here we create a space to recognize the variety in ourselves.* We reclaim the values of the private sphere, allowing intimate works to be comfortably recast before they are released into the wider world. Here we bring the sometimes disorganized table of personal production into the intermediary space of the galleries — blurring the boundaries of personal and public, process and display, the labors that are completed for wages and those for other, more intimate exchanges.

This process-based residency will take the form of a parlor work-center, occupied by ten WCCW residents over the course of the program. WCCW Creative Director Kate Johnston and Managing Director Sarah Williams will start the residency the first week by installing a worktable, calendar, and some simple shelves for materials, which will serve as sites for the production of a daily practice. A riso-printed broadsheet publication delineating the residency participants and projects will be created, distributed in the area, and also made available online.

Nine additional residents will then enter the space for a week at a time, layering the space with their own materials and work. Each resident will spend the week there working in public space. The process materials from each residency will not be removed upon completion, but will accumulate on the walls and in the space as a collaged archive, the remnants of each residency building on the last, to fill the parlor with the reminders of production and the individuals who came before. Each week-long residency will culminate in a workshop, lecture, performance, screening or other public program led by the resident. WCCW residents include: Soyoung Shin; Lux Los Angeles (Stephanie Newcomb, Katherine Kokoska, Feyza Koksall); Melanie Griffin; Johanna Breiding; Kate Figgins; Arden Surdam and Meghan Gordon; Maryam Hosseinzadeh; Lake Sharp; and One Axe Plays. A full list of residents and more information about their projects is available on the Armory's website.

This project is funded as a part of the National Endowment for the Arts's Our Town Public Art Project "My Pasadena," a City of Pasadena public art project with Side Street Projects as a partner. The project received additional support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

About the Women's Center for Creative Work

The Women's Center for Creative Work (WCCW) cultivates Los Angeles' creative feminist communities. We are a network of rad women engaged in conversations about contemporary feminisms and creative practices. In our most tangible incarnation we are a women-lead creative co-workspace in Frogtown. On a broader level, we are an enabling architecture providing professional, emotional and artistic nourishment for female driven creative projects.

About the Armory

Armory Center for the Arts, in Pasadena, California, believes that an understanding and appreciation of the arts is essential for a well-rounded human experience and a healthy civic community. Founded in 1989, the Armory builds on the power of art to transform lives and communities through presenting, creating, teaching, and discussing contemporary visual art. The organization's department of exhibitions mounts over 25 visual arts exhibitions each year at its main facility and in locations throughout the City of Pasadena. In addition, the Armory offers

studio art classes and a variety of educational outreach programs to more than fifty schools and community sites.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5pm; admission is free and donations are accepted. Parking is available on the street or in the Marriott garage directly north of the Armory for free for 90 minutes. The Armory is off the Gold Line at Memorial Park – walk one half block east to Raymond and one half block north to the Armory. For more information please visit www.armoryarts.org