

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Letters to the Mayor

April 30 – May 24, 2014

Opening Reception: April 29, 2014, 7pm



Gretchen Wilkins, "Future Factory," 2014. Submission to Storefront for Art and Architecture's Competition of Competitions.

NEW YORK, NY. April 2, 2014. Storefront for Art and Architecture announces the opening of *Letters to the Mayor*, a group exhibition presenting letters written by 50 international architects to the political leaders of ten cities around the world and showcasing the work of the finalists of Storefront's 2013 *Competition of Competitions*. Drawing on the complex relationship between architecture and the political powers that influence the built environment, *Letters to the Mayor* expresses concerns and desires of architects and citizens in the construction of our cities. *Letters to the Mayor* will be on display from April 30 to May 24, 2014 and an opening reception will take place on April 29 from 7-9pm with a members and press preview at 6pm.

The architect has the privilege and responsibility to articulate and translate the collective aspirations of an entire society, specifically those not able to sit at the decision-making tables. However, over the last two decades, the role of the architect in the political arena has often been reduced to answering questions that others have asked. Each letter, addressed to a prominent political figure in the author's city, provides a space of reflection for the architects to bring ideas, desires and methodologies that might contribute to action within political spheres around the world.

Alongside these letters, the exhibition displays the 18 finalists of the *Competition of Competitions*, an architectural competition produced by Storefront last year that invited architects and citizens to create a

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competition brief. With the intention to provoke long-standing conventions of the architecture competition, the *Competition of Competitions* attracted more than 100 entries, which were reviewed by a jury of professionals and visionaries including **Amale Andraos** (Architect, Work AC), **Paola Anotonelli** (Architecture Curator, MoMA), and **Michael Sorkin** (Architect and architecture critic).

The exhibition is thus a compilation of briefs, facts, claims, desires and dreams for the construction of our cities, their future foundations and their future horizons. All competition briefs and letters will be sent to each respective Mayor after being presented at the gallery.

The exhibition will feature letters by Frida Escobedo, Catherine Ingraham, Julia King, María Langarita, Jing Liu, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Saskia Sassen, Nathalie de Vries, Sarah Whiting, Marisa Yiu, Mimi Zeiger, and more.

The winners of the Competition of Competitions will be announced at the public opening of the exhibition on April 29 at 7pm.

Competition of Competitions Finalists

TAKING BUILDINGS DOWN by IncA

THE DISCREET ARCHITECT by Local provision Studio

OPEN SOURCE OPEN SPACE, HACKING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT by Boot Trunk

THE CITY by Form Fiction Format

NO TITLES by GroundLAB

NATURE, ERROR, BABIES by Metonymy's Architecture

DEPLOY YOURSELF, NOT YOUR DESIGNS by CIRCa

DEPOLITISIGN by Min Chen & Kristin Enright

AMAZONIA 2020 by Civic Projects

THE NEXT SUBURB by The Thirteenth Hour

OFF-THE-RADAR: THE ARCHITECTURE OF NON-EXISTING SPACE by MITNICK-RODDIER

LABYRINTH COMPETITION by Gray_matter(s)

ARCHITECTURAL WORK by The Architecture Lobby

BLISS [BETTER LIVING THROUGH INTUITIVE SOFT SURVEILLANCE] by Yeadon Space Agency

FUTURE FACTORY by Gretchen Wilkins

REZONING THE 5TH FAÇADE: REDEFINING NEW YORK'S CITY ROOF SCAPE by normaldesign

SECOND NATURE. ARCHITECTURE IN GREEN by El Corbusier

INTO DE VOID by Zooburbia

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About Storefront

Founded in 1982, Storefront for Art and Architecture is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture, art and design. Its program of exhibitions, artists talks, film screenings, conferences and publications is intended to generate dialogue and collaboration across geographic, ideological and disciplinary boundaries. As a public forum for emerging voices, Storefront explores vital issues in art and architecture with the intent of increasing awareness of and interest in contemporary design. More information at www.storefrontnews.org

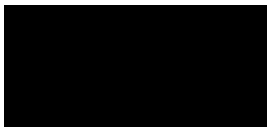
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The Competition of Competitions was made possible through a generous contribution by Peter Guggenheimer.

State of the Arts



NYSCA



Press contact:

Kara Meyer, Director of External Relations
Storefront for Art and Architecture
212.431.5795
km@storefrontnews.org