

INVISIBLE VENUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Here and Now" Three site-specific installations in historic Oakland architecture, featuring new works by Elaine Buckholtz at Mills Hall (c.1871), Floor Vahn at Pardee Home Museum (c. 1868), and Christine Wong Yap at Camron-Stanford House (c.1876)

June 2010
Various locations, Oakland, CA

"Here and Now" is a series of site-specific installations in three historic buildings dating from the early inception of the State of California. Each site provides a relatively unchanged visual benchmark for the architecture of its period, with respective histories that reflect the early radical politics of the Bay Area. The participating artists have been commissioned to create new works that investigate the various inherent legacies of these locations. "Here and Now" is curated by Christian L. Frock presents Invisible Venue and is organized by the Mills College Art Museum.

Mills Hall is the original school house of Mills College when it was established in Oakland in 1871. Initially formed in Benicia in 1852 and conceived as a college for women, it is the oldest liberal arts college on the West Coast. Influenced by an Eadweard Muybridge photograph from 1873 of students and faculty assembled on site, [Elaine Buckholtz's](#) site-specific light and video installation "Out of the Blue (Mills Hall Reconsidered)" will animate the exterior of Mills Hall on select weekend evenings in June (exact dates TBD). This work will be freely visible as a drive-by experience in transit from an easily accessible circular driveway on campus.

The Pardee Home Museum in West Oakland was originally built and occupied by Enoch Pardee, an early public figure who served terms as Oakland mayor and California state assemblyman and state senator. His son, George Pardee, was state governor during the famous 1906 earthquake that devastated San Francisco. The house was occupied by family of the original residents for more than 100 years until 1981-its unchanged interiors reflect both its unusually layered domestic history, but also that of the greater history of California and the progressive politics of its inhabitants. [Floor Vahn](#) will create four unique sound scores, "Sonic Pardee Home (Reconstituting Memories of Pardee Past)," that will draw on the real and imagined history of the house, installed as ambient sound within various rooms. This sound installation will be accessible during scheduled tours on all four Saturdays in June at 1, 2 and 3pm. Tours are \$5/person.

Camron-Stanford House was built during the early development of Oakland and was a residence for various historic figures, such as David Hewes and Josiah Stanford, before becoming the official site of the Oakland Public Museum. David Hewes, a renowned patron of the arts in his day, built a substantial fortune as a contractor leveling the hills and sand dunes of San Francisco. His success relied heavily upon a Chinese manual labor workforce during the oppressive period of California's Anti-Coolie Act of 1862 and the Federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. [Christine Wong Yap's](#) "The Great Balloon Giveaway," is a one-day free event and social sculpture set to take place on Saturday, June 5. This work is inspired by imagery from the recent Oscar-winning animated film "Up" and re-contextualizes the political histories of the house through the free distribution of 1,000 helium balloons to passersby, with assistance from a local youth group.

A map detailing locations and hours for each project will be published by Mills Art Museum and available to download from www.invisiblevenue.com and www.mills.edu/museum. A closing reception for the artists is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, June 26 at Mills College. Details forthcoming.

For more information, please email christian@invisiblevenue.com or Ichinn@mills.edu

Christian L. Frock presents INVISIBLE VENUE
Invisible Venue collaborates with artists to present art in unexpected settings.
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