

Thank you for visiting DOING EASY!

Manifesting as a domestic intervention in the High Desert of California, DOING EASY presents the work of visual artists, designers, and writers that reflect on the sway of place. For the visitor and house guest, DOING EASY celebrates domestic rhythms as they meander between notions of Labor & Play, Expediency & Slowness, Poetry & Function.

DOING EASY optimistically engages with the domestic space as a privileged and underestimated sanctuary for reflection, education, production, and ritual. The presented works—ranging from a cork doorstep to a wooden chair to a folder of poems to a scented hand soap—have been installed in a way which allows them to slip into the daily routines and rhythms of a living, breathing home. DOING EASY creates a domestic universe of orbiting works that propose and champion the possibilities for personal enactments of small-scaled domestic utopias.

Thank you for staying and don't forget to sign our guestbook!

Organized by
Erik Benjamins

Participants,

Alex Reed (US)
Ashley Eden
Kessler (US)
David Horvitz (US)
Elisabeth
Tonnard (NL)
Erik Benjamins (US)
Janelle DolRayne (US)
Jasper Morrison (UK)
Lauren Godfrey (UK)
Max Lamb (UK)
Norma &
Various Projects,
Inc. (US)
Pico Iyer (JP)
Stef Halmos (US)
Susan Barbour (US)
Yeb Wiersma (NL)

Alex Reed

Gift Shop: 2685 Keeler Ave, 2017 — ‡
Price Signs and Additional Ongoing Elements
Living Room

Over the duration of DOING EASY, Alex presents a domestic-scaled gift shop that will feature items realized in direct response to objects within the Outpost Projects home. Items for sale will include ceramic editions, garments, posters, and more. As Alex finishes the first of the items, a series of readymade price signs serve as a poetic introduction to his Gift Shop that will evolve over the next months.

Ashley Eden Kessler

Desert House, 2017 — §
Scented Candle and Hand Soap
Kitchen (Island) and Bathroom

Ashley has realized a fragrance that references a combination of local native environmental elements including cactus flower, acacia wood, and dry earth. The cactus flower is fresh, green, herbaceous, spicy, and slightly citrusy in the direction of grapefruit. Acacia wood is a smokey, woody, sweet and powdery note. Dry earth smells of hay, dust, and minerals.

Tending to the candle flame: (1) Trim the wick. Before lighting, pinch off the burnt/brittle top of the wick with fingers (use a tissue to avoid sooting your hands). (2) Let it burn. Leave the flame on until the entire surface is liquefied (1-4 hours). (3) Extinguish the flame. Never leave your flame unattended, kindly blow it out before sleeping or leaving the space.

David Horvitz

Clocks, 2015 — ‡
Posters
Various Rooms

Noguchi Garden, Orange County, (no date) — ‡
Plant
Back Patio

Death Valley Rock (no date) — ‡
Rock
Back Patio

Avocado Seed Sprout in Perrier Bottle, (no date) — ‡
Seed sprout and modified bottle
Kitchen (Counter)

Personal Photos, 2017 — ‡
Photographs
Kitchen (Refrigerator)

Personal photographs from David's digital archive have been printed by way of traditional drugstore methods. Once printed, the digital versions have been deleted leaving these single prints as the sole photographic remnant.

Elisabeth Tonnard

Eugene!, 2017
Autosummary Poem
Guest Bedroom (Bedside Table)

Eugene! is a poem written by Microsoft Word and left unedited by Elisabeth. The work was made with the now defunct autosummary function when applied to the novel 'Look Homeward, Angel' by Thomas Wolfe.

Real Estate Dreams, Nr. 1, The Candle, 2017
Found Photographs
Kitchen (Wall)

Images pulled from the Dutch real estate site, Funda, feature a single, lit candle within the compositions

Erik Benjamins

En la tierra del mañana, 2015 — ‡
Butcherblock
Kitchen (Island)

A butcherblock's bloodgrooves are formed by the Mayor of Santa Fe's "manaña". Chopping scallions on the Mayor's manaña will imbue your kitchen space with the soulful slowness of Santa Fe's many grazing Subarus. To be used!

Free Smells, 2016 — ‡
Neon Sign
Library

A neon sign has been appropriated from a popular nation-wide sandwich store and folded into Erik's practice as another working mantra.

Sketch for a doormat, 2017
Ceramic tiles
Master Bedroom

Ceramic tiles configured into doormat-sized units mimic the affect of reflexology walking paths. Over the duration of DOING EASY, Erik will evolve and workshop this prototype, adjusting the sculpture as the project progresses.

You are encouraged to walk on the tiles, but be careful! It may hurt a little bit...

Janelle DolRayne

Bookcase studies, 2017
List Poems & Books
Library (Stump)

Janelle's poems have been crafted using titles from the bookshelves of a good friend, a stranger, and her parents. Selected books from each poem are stacked below.

You are encouraged to add your own poem to the folder by responding to any of the titles present in the Outpost Projects library.

Jasper Morrison

Scattered throughout the house are a selection of Super Normal objects that are either designed or curated by Jasper. Regarding the concept of Super Normal, he says, "If you went into a shop looking for a dining plate, it would be the most plate-like plate you could find."

Water Glass from Glass Family for Alessi — ‡ §
Water Glasses
Kitchen (Cupboard)

Jug by Ian McIntyre — ‡ §
Terracotta Jug
Kitchen (Cupboard)

Ashtray (designer unknown) — ‡ §
Melamine Ashtray
Back Patio (Glass Side Table) — ‡ §

Cork Door Wedge by Hugo Passos — ‡ §
Cork Door Wedge
Library (Door)

Lauren Godfrey

You Are Where You Eat, 2017 — ‡ §
Lasercut Cork Placemats
Dining Room (Dining Table)

Lauren's placemats feature drawings that reference images used on the Outpost Project's AirBnB website.

Max Lamb
DIY Chair, 2008 — §
Pine
Living Room

Following step-by-step instructions, Max's DIY Chair can be constructed with common building materials readily available at any hardware store.

Norma & Various Projects, Inc.

Plant Stakes, 2017
Foil-Stamped Acrylic Stakes
House Interior & Exterior

Norma has named various inside and outside plants throughout the property. These names reference—among other things—historic female high desert homesteaders, local artists, and the methodology for which the studio named itself.

Pico Iyer

Why We Travel, 2000
Essay
Kitchen (House Guide)

Stef Halmos
Ritual Bath, Dry Place, 2017 — §
Plaster Tongues
Living Room

Susan Barbour

Eve, Naked, 2017 — §
Artist's Hair on Paper
Bathroom

Susan has been using her shower as a studio. Her ongoing series of nudes are drawn using her hair when showering. Afterwards, they are transferred to paper with an adhesive film.

Yeb Wiersma — ‡ §
(IN)TRANQUILO, 2016
Brass Plates & Takeaway Risograph Posters

Brass plates and a stack of takeaway posters serve as partial documentation for an ephemeral intervention that Yeb conducted in collaboration with the Sanitation Department of Rotterdam in 2016.

"There, I poured the perfumes, Tranquilo and Intranquilo, bought in a Botanica Store in Queens, into the water reservoirs of the cleaning trucks (the one cleansing the city in the morning with their rotating brushes) departing from the sanitation department of the City of Rotterdam, prior to their departure into the city. This work is an unusual ritual that created a platform to investigate the dynamics of the city, the relation and friction between day and night, nature-culture, known and strange things, and our relation to maintenance, to daily invisible labour performed by the sanitation workers.

Please take a poster!

Notes,

‡ — Artwork for sale

Inquiries can be made directly to the artist directly via their website linked at the end of the bio that follows. If a sale is arranged, the artwork will be made available at exhibition's end.

§ — Participation encouraged

Many DOING EASY works welcome your participation. Please do so with care and love.

Contact,

Questions and comments can be directed to Erik Benjamins at erikbenj@gmail.com.

Alex Reed earned his BFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University; he live and works in Los Angeles. Alex writes, “I strive to cultivate a practice that encompasses both commercial work for industry and independent speculative work. My recent work proposes a domestic utopia forever slipping just over the horizon. I’ve combined craft training with technical insights from the commercial ceramics manufacturing in an effort to flatten seemingly disparate techniques and notions of value.”
alexjreed.com

A Los Angeles native, Ashley Kessler is an independent perfumer, consultant, and educator. After studying at the prestigious Grasse Institute of Perfumery in Grasse, France, she accepted a position as a Perfumer’s Assistant at Drom Fragrances International, one of the world’s top fine fragrance studios. After two years in that position, she was offered the chance to move back to Los Angeles as consultant for Sarah Horowitz’ new business initiative, Original Scent. Today, in her role as Perfumer in Residence at the Institute for Art and Olfaction, Ashley will oversee the development of the IAO perfumery studio while applying her formal education to the organization’s scent projects. She also consults on the formation of the IAO’s educational strategies and courses.
studiosentir.com

David Horvitz makes fictions that insert themselves surreptitiously into the real, shifting seamlessly through the forms of photographs, books, performances, memes, or, through the use of ‘mail art’, with postal dispatches. His actions often explores varying conceptions of time and space, as well as interpersonal relationships and the dissemination of images via the internet. Horvitz collects images, texts, and objects, through media such as the internet, the postal system, libraries, and airport lost and found services, letting them develop, spread, and, in the long term, get out of hand, slightly throwing things off course in different mediums in the process. He adopts a nomadic personality, finding loopholes and alternative logics within them. He has in the past decade created a body of work that spans, weather, gastronomy, travel, measurement, and public space. He deliberately counters patterns derived from professionalization and efficiency.
davidhorvitz.com

Elisabeth Tonnard is a Dutch artist and poet working in artists’ books, photography and literature. Since 2003 she has published over forty books in which texts and images extracted from the cultural archive are processed and laid out to exhibit their latent messages. The works range in scale and method from a book that is completely invisible to a book that is a swimming pool. The books are held in numerous collections including the Centre Pompidou, Columbia University, Getty Museum, MoMA Library, New York Public Library and Tate Library. The work has won several awards, most recently the Kleine Hans (Little Hans) 2013. In 2014 the Van Abbe museum presented a retrospective of her bookworks. In 2017 het balanseer in Belgium will publish her Dutch poetry book ‘Voor het ideaal, lees de schaal’.
elisabethtonnard.com

As an artist, writer, and educator, Erik Benjamins celebrates the sensing body as a means to move and learn in the world. His practice is concept-driven, materially unfaithful, and unapologetically optimistic.
erikbenjamins.com

Janelle DolRayne is a former poetry editor of Copper Nickel and art and production editor of The Journal. Her poems and essay have appeared in The Laurel Review, The Indiana Review, Ninth Letter, The Col-lagist, Parcel, Interruption, and the 2013 Best of the Net Anthology, among others. She is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize, the Vandewater Poetry Award, and an M.F.A. degree from The Ohio State University. Her essay “An Ocean Existing Somewhere Without Us,” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Originally from Coal Creek Canyon, CO, she currently calls Los Angeles home. She teaches at Loyola Marymount University.
dolrayne.com

Known for thinking outside the box, Jasper Morrison is one of the most successful industrial designers of the past few decades. Together with his colleague Naoto Fukasawa, he defined the term ‘super normal’, which in his opinion answers the question of what ‘good design’ should really be. In his work, he strives to create good examples of understated, useful and responsible design. Morrison has developed several projects in collaboration with Vitra, including the All Plastic Chair, the Soft Modular Sofa and the HAL chair family. His designs are represented in New York’s Museum of Modern Art and other prominent museum collections around the world.
www.jaspermorrison.com

Lauren Godfrey works in London. Godfrey has exhibited and performed both nationally and internationally at galleries including VITRINE, London; ICA, London; (2016) Kingsgate Workshops, London; Open Space Gallery, Baltimore; Turf Projects, Croydon; Caus-tic Coastal, Manchester; (2015); V&A Friday Lates, London; An Tobar, Isle of Mull; Slopes Projects, Melbourne (2014), Co2 Gallery, Rome (2013); Her work was included in Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2012 at ICA and Liverpool Biennial. She collaboratively produces the periodical 'Her Eyes and My Voice', the fourth issue launched in 2016. In 2016 Godfrey was resident at Triangle, New York and in 2015 at Kingsgate Workshops, London.
laurengodfrey.co.uk

British designer, Max Lamb (b. 1980) has travelled to China, Australia, the Catskills in New York, and closer to home—the beaches of Cornwall, England—to source materials for his one-of-a-kind furniture pieces. Whether forging chairs from solid Chinese granite, crafting tables from sheets of steel, or casting pewter stools in sand, in an age-old technique that entails digging into the beach and filling it with molten metal, Lamb's methods are often labor-intensive and deeply entwined with his materials. Other works have incorporated hand-crafted plaster carved with stone-masonry tools, man-made marble, bronze, aluminum, and dowel.
maxlamb.org

Norma is a studio for objects, moveables, and spaces. From its offices in Los Angeles and New York, the studio pursues research, fabrication, interior, and curatorial projects rooted in explorations of form and material. Norma seeks out commissions from and collaborations with patrons and peers both local and international, with the consistent goal of creating narrative-based outputs rooted in generosity, candor, and delight.
norma-studio.com

Pico Iyer is the author of two novels and ten works of non-fiction, on subjects ranging from the Cuban Revolution to Islamic mysticism, from the Dalai Lama to LAX. He recently delivered three talks for TED in the space of three years, and since 1987 he has been based in Western Japan, when not traveling everywhere from North Korea to Easter Island.
picoiyerjourneys.com

Stef Halmos was born in Fort Lauderdale, FL, to a Hungarian immigrant father and a Southern belle mother. She holds a BFA from Miami University (2006) and an MFA from the California College of the Arts (2012). Her work has been shown internationally, including exhibitions at the Portland Museum of Art, the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, the Chelsea Art Museum, and the Carnegie Museum of Art, among others. Halmos has received fellowships from the William and Dorothy Yeck foundation, as well as the Murphy and Cadogan foundation, with work published in T Magazine, Blackbook, and The New York Times. She lives and works in Brooklyn with her wife, Mckenzie Raley, and their dog, Wolfie. She eats extreme quantities of pizza.
stefhalmos.com

Susan Barbour is a poet-scholar and artist. She earned a B.A. from Dartmouth, an M.A. in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, and a D. Phil. in English Literature from Oxford, where she was a Clarendon Scholar and The Somerville College Graduate Scholar in the Humanities. She also holds the Level 4 Diploma from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust and is a certified French Wine Scholar. Her poetry and essays have appeared in literary magazines including Five Dials, The Paris Review, Catapult, The Los Angeles Review of Books, and Oxford Poetry, and her scholarship has been published in academic journals such as Textual Practice, Transatlantica, and The Oxford Review of English Studies. She has been the recipient of fellowships from The James B. Reynolds Foundation, The Rothermere American Studies Institute, The Huntington Library, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Beinecke Library at Yale, The Jentel Artist Residency, The Dora Maar House/Brown Foundation, and The Institute for Art and Olfaction. She has lectured at Johns Hopkins, École Polytechnique, and Merton College, Oxford and also held research positions at Columbia University and Caltech. She is currently based in Los Angeles.
susanbarbour.net

Yeb Wiersma graduated at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie (Fine Arts) in Amsterdam after which she continued her studies at Cooper Union in NYC. Recently she was artist-in-residence at the Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht. Her works have been presented by De Oude Kerk, A Tale of a Tub, FOAM Amsterdam, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, The Gentlewoman Magazine, Swiss Book Designs, Club Donny, Jinji Lake Art Museum Suzhou a.o.
yebwiersma.com