

# *L'air pour l'air*

## SO – IL | Ana Prvački

### Chicago Architecture Biennial 2017

#### SO – IL with Ana Prvački: *L'air pour l'air*

In conjunction with *Making New History*, the second edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, SO – IL and artist Ana Prvački will debut a special project during the Biennial's opening week. Titled *L'air pour l'air*, the project aims to ensure the continued legacy of musicians as our cities' atmospheres grow more polluted.

Inspired by the abundant plant life in the Garfield Park Conservatory, SO – IL and Prvački have created an ensemble of air-filtering mesh enclosures, designed to clean the air through breathing. Part mask, part shelter, the enclosures will be worn by an ensemble of saxophone, flute, trombone, and vocals from the Chicago Sinfionetta. Through performing an original composition, *De Aere* (concerning the air), by composer Veronika Krausas, the musicians will “clean the air that produces the music.” The installation and performance encourage its viewers to meditate upon the complex notions such as the relationship between purity and pollution, and the distinctions between self, body, objects, and nature.

Enlightening our senses has been a consistent endeavor of SO - IL. Prior to *L'air pour l'air*, SO - IL has created *Passage*, a reflection on the spatial qualities of the ramp, for the Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015. In response to a perceived incline and distance, one's navigational sense corrects one's movement by adjusting pace and posture. This installation endeavors to interrupt this automatic response by heightening an awareness of one's body in space. The Biennial selected *Passage* to remain on site, which is now on view at the Chicago Cultural Center.

#### **Schedule**

Press and Professional Preview

Wednesday Sep 13th 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Press Tour Visit

Friday Sep 15th 10:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Public Performance

Saturday Sep 16th 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

#### **Collaborator**

Ana Prvački

#### **Team**

Florian idenburg

Jing Liu

Ilias Papageorgiou

Seunghyun Kang (Project Lead)

Anna Margit

Diandra Rendradjaja

Yan Ma

Qionglu Lei

Sophie Nichols

Iason Houssein

Along with launching *L'air pour l'air*, SO – IL will join the following panels:

**Making Books Now: Architects on Print**  
**Friday September 15th 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
**Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater**

With our recently published book *Solid Objectives: Order, Edge, Aura*, Florian and Jing will have a conversation with Hilary Sample and Michael Meredith from MOS Architects. Hosted by James Graham, Director of Publications at Columbia GSAPP, and titled "Representation", the panel will focus on their various methods of applying illustration -- photography, diagrams, drawings, collage -- as ways to experiment with the conventions of the monograph in order to reflect a personal design process within the context of architectural history and contemporary practice.

This event is open to ticket holders of the Chicago Architecture Biennial preview.

**Make New History: Photography in the Expanded Field of Architecture**  
**Friday September 15th 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**  
**Expo Chicago, Navy Pier**

As part of the Art and Architecture Symposium for Expo Chicago, Florian Idenburg will join a panel discussion on architecture and photography's mutual fascination with the tension between realism and abstraction. Moderated by architect and writer Jesús Vassallo, "Make New History: Photography in the Expanded Field of Architecture" will examine the creative practice of the panel members, including artists Luisa Lambri, Thomas Demand, and architect Adam Caruso.

Attendance to this event is included with the purchase of a ticket for Expo Chicago.

**Rooms for Books: Book Signing of *Solid Objectives: Order, Edge, Aura***  
**Saturday, September 16th 1:00 PM**  
**Chicago Architecture Biennial, Location TBD**

**About Ana Prvački**

In her videos, services, concoctions and drawings, Ana Prvački uses a gently pedagogical and comedic approach in an attempt to reconcile etiquette and erotics. She aims for a conceptual practice with a low carbon footprint.

**About SO - IL**

SO–IL is an award-winning architectural design firm based in New York City. We design and produce spaces for creativity, innovation, culture, learning and living around the world.

We design to engage our evolving world. Our process melds digital technology with traditional craft, moving off the screen into physical space. The result is participatory: We create open platforms of exchange that welcome transformation and reinterpretation, working with clients

and collaborators to realize the unique vision of each project. We believe that architecture has the power to offer a sense of wonder and place.

We have been recognized with awards for both architecture and design. These include an AIA San Francisco Merit Award, the Curbed Groundbreakers Award, the Progressive Architecture Award, the Architectural League Emerging Voices Award, and the MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program Award. We are included in the permanent collections of institutions like MoMA and Chicago Art Institute.

## **About Chicago Architecture Biennial**

The 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial unites a main exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center with a selection of off-site projects, a broad range of aligned exhibitions, and an extensive series of programming for the public that will serve Chicagoans and visitors alike. The Biennial is free and open to the public from September 16, 2017 to January 7, 2018.

Make New History is the theme of the second Chicago Architecture Biennial and the title of the main exhibition, curated by Artistic Directors Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee. Its installations and immersive environments will activate the full space of the Chicago Cultural Center and feature over 140 participants from around the world.

**Further press request please email [press@so-il.org](mailto:press@so-il.org)**